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SCRANTON, DECEMBER 21, 1896.

Let us hope that the Consolidated Traction company will commemorate its coming together by purchasing a new equipment of cars and giving Scranton the kind of street car service that it needs.

Our Duty to Cuba; Let It Be Performed.

In view of the unanimous action of the senate committee on foreign affairs in deciding to report to the senate, for its consideration after the holidays, a resolution recognizing the independence of the republic of Cuba, and pledging the friendly offices of the United States government with the government of Spain to bring the war between Spain and Cuba to a close, it becomes proper to consider, as far as we can, the probable consequences of the adoption of such a resolution. The intimation of Secretary Olney that the president would ignore such a resolution if passed involves a separate subject of inquiry which will for the present be waived.

In the first place, we should lose the right to claim damages from Spain for subsequent losses to American property in Cuba. But it is plausibly argued that there is small prospect of securing any damages now, while if as a result of our recognition and moral aid the Cubans should win, we might in course of time reasonably expect remuneration from them. Spain would still be liable for losses sustained by our citizens up to the moment of such recognition. Secondly, Spain would gain the right to search our vessels for contraband of war, and in the exercise of this right might easily provoke war, on the other hand, Cuba, on the strength of our recognition, would gain official representation at Washington, and could in all probability float a war loan, buy and openly ship munitions of war, and possibly secure war ships with which to prey on Spain's commerce.

The third consequence most discussed is the possibility of an ebullition of Spanish temper which would directly lead to war. This is freely predicted on all sides. But let us ask ourselves the question whether it is consonant with the dignity and the manhood of the first nation in the Western hemisphere to be stopped from the performance of a moral duty by the characteristic irritability of a decadent and notoriously dishonest foreign power. We claim that the result of our action in this matter, so far as Spain is concerned, is not for us to consider, so long as we offer to Spain no international indignity and keep fully within the scope of our treaty obligations. The recognition of Cuba is not a casus belli. If war should come because of it, it could only come through Spanish provocation; and if that were offered we believe that it would be in the interest of a higher civilization to have the sovereignty of Spain forever eliminated from this hemisphere.

The only point fairly open to honest difference of opinion is whether the Cubans have yet progressed sufficiently far toward the establishment of a republican form of government to warrant its formal recognition by the United States. Upon this point we have the negative assertion of the president and secretary of state opposed to the affirmative voice of every member of the senate committee on foreign affairs. There is no fact before Messrs. Cleveland and Olney which has not also received full and careful consideration by the members of the senate committee. On the other hand, the senators cite numerous precedents to show that the United States has from time to time acknowledged the independence of South American republics on less substantial grounds than now appear in Cuba's behalf. If this be true—and the probability is that neither President Cleveland nor Secretary Olney has paid much attention to the precedents—it certainly seems reasonable to expect that this republic, which owes its own life to the recognition and help of distant France, proffered at a time when we had, as a sign of civil government, only a continental congress resting for its authority upon the voluntary consent of the constituent Thirteen Colonies, will be willing, in behalf of justice, to deal as generously with little Cuba lying in bondage at its very door.

There is reason for early action in this matter, and it is authoritatively supplied in the president's own statement that an additional year of struggle in Cuba would probably ruin that beautiful island for all time to come.

It is a good thing that congress occasionally responds to a higher standard of duty than is indicated in the quotations of the stock market.

Scoring Dr. Parkhurst.

The Women's Rescue league of New York says by resolution that Rev. Dr. Charles H. Parkhurst "has done more harm to society than he can ever atone for during the period of his natural life. Through the agitation brought on by him in his pulpits and through his society, this so-called reformer has been the means of driving respectable women into the dwelling places of respectable women, the state of the city is worse than ever before, and the man with money and church influence at his command that will use the heartless language he has and plan such cruel methods against the outcast women is a disgrace to the pulpit and to Christianity as well. The name of the society of which he is president should be changed to the Society for the Propagation of Vice, Disease and Crime."

We do not copy this bitter arraignment in a spirit of sympathy with its severe language, but simply as an illustration that there are two sides to every subject. Dr. Parkhurst, in our judgment, began his exploitations of vice with honorable and commendable intentions; but his zeal has at so many places in his subsequent career got the better of his discretion that it is a fairly debatable question whether his power for genuine usefulness to society is not now practically extinguished. That, however, is not what we are at

present concerned with. A more important point is whether it is wise to attempt the eradication of the social evil by the dispersive process, which simply scatters its poison over a widened area, exposing to pollution districts previously exempt. Advocates of this plan are numerous and influential, numbering among them most of the professional reformers of the land. Yet the facts seem to be altogether against this mode of treatment; and if it has failed signally in New York, after all the stir and loud noise of the Parkhurst movement, it may well be doubted whether it can be expected to succeed on any smaller scale, in that or any other city.

Personal rescue added to the centralization of vicious places in separate districts seems the only effective palliative, apart from the miscellaneous workings of religion and science leading to moral and physical cleanliness.

The Wilkes-Barre Times merits congratulations on a holiday number of unusual value, enclosed in an illuminated cover of handsome design. The Times is making the dust fly.

A Significant Editorial.

The Catholic Times of London is perhaps the ablest Catholic paper printed in the English language, and also the most influential. In an editorial review of the battle in this country between the Cahensyites (who want old world languages and customs perpetuated in America) and the so-called Catholic Liberals (including such men as Archbishop Ireland and Bishop Keane) it makes some admissions which, coming from a foreign source, are quite significant.

It first calls the attention of European Catholics to the "intense, not to say bitter, opposition which the American people entertain toward any attempt to further the continued existence of continental languages upon the soil, and among those who have found a home upon the soil of the republic of North America," and then adds: "As things are at present, they show beyond the possibility of a doubt the determination of America that every European who elects to dwell beneath the protection of the Stars and Stripes shall, as soon as possible, and to the last limit of possibility, associate himself and throw in his lot with the people of the land which gives him a home and protects him in the enjoyment of it. We feel bound to admit that such a policy is what we should expect from an emboldened patriotic and commonly practical people like the Americans. Speech is a barrier between peoples more impassable than seas or mountains. For well or ill, English is the language of the immense majority in the United States, and it is only natural that the people of the United States should wish to hasten on the day when all should speak the same tongue, as all must rally round the same flag and accept the same political institutions. The day must come, however it may be delayed."

The Times goes on to warn the Cahensyites of the dangers of their course in America and concludes with this pregnant truth: "The American laws allow toleration to every religious body; but the Americans will not favor any religious body which in any way sets itself in opposition to the national interests, perhaps, we may say, to the national sentiment." It will be perceived that this is not the utterance of an American Protestant nationalist but that of the leading church organ of English Catholicism. With this fact borne in mind, it will, we think, bear study.

It is fair to recognize good work even when in a bad cause. On the eve of possible complications that may end in his recall, it should be said for the Spanish minister at Washington, Senor Deputy de Lome, that under circumstances of the greatest delicacy he has exhibited diplomatic tact and discretion of uncommon fineness and has defended his country with abilities worthy of far better employment.

Inadequate School Government.

We notice with satisfaction that the American Academy of Political and Social Science has lent its aid to the discussion of methods for the reform of city school administration. That there is need of reform in this quarter is a general proposition which nowhere attains greater force than in Scranton. The other evening in Philadelphia addresses were delivered on this subject by Professor Nicholas Murray Butler, of Columbia university, Dr. Edward Brooks, superintendent of the Philadelphia schools, and State Superintendent of Instruction Schaeffer. Their addresses have not been received in full, but from the newspaper abstracts it appears that Professor Murray offered as a near approach to an ideal system of school government, the system which is to go into effect in New York city on Jan. 1. This is based upon the idea of absolute centralization of power and responsibility, with a central Board of Education representing the whole city, and not representing any one political party, and which is to consist of three departments, education, construction and finance; and, lastly, the total divorce of politics from school administration.

Dr. Schaeffer in his address undertook to maintain that the methods of school government in second and third class Pennsylvania cities are superior to those governing cities of the first class. He was especially glad that in such cities boards of control have exclusive supervision of school finances, and are not subject to the ignorant curtailments of politically boss-ridden city councils. His satisfaction on this point may be justified—probably it is—but there is another side to the question, and that is the need of a rigid auditing of school board accounts. As the matter today stands in Scranton, and other third-class cities, there is absolutely no check whatever upon the wastefulness, the ignorance or the corruption of school controllers. Bills are ordered paid by vote of the board that are not examined by any but the immediately interested members, once in ten times. Even where boards are perfectly honest there is a great waste of public funds through lack of a vigilant scrutiny of contracts and accounts; and where one or more members are actively dishonest, the opportunities for public jobbery and robbery are bound only by the size of the taxable pop-

ulation and the gullibility of the honest members.

This is a matter that needs more ventilation than it has yet received. The time is ripe for decided reforms in school board financing.

Says Senator Frye, president pro tem. of the senate: "I cannot forget that, where we had one just cause to rebel against the mother country, these Cuban patriots have scores as just for their rebellion; and I shall do or say or vote anything consistent with the honor and the integrity of the republic which will, in my opinion, promote the success of the Cuban patriots, so bravely struggling to wrest liberty from the iron grasp of a cruel and relentless despotism." Mr. Frye, is he isn't careful, will earn the undying enmity of the doughfaces.

Numerous merchants in Williamsport are mourning the absence of an itinerant advertising sharper who collected \$200 from them on a fake advertising scheme and then disappeared before giving any quid pro quo. Their experience is not an uncommon one. There are said to be merchants right here in intelligent Scranton who would sooner be humbugged by fly-by-night advertising schemes than to spend half as much money on legitimate and profitable advertising in the daily press.

In a Columbus, O., vaudeville theatre the other day a traveling imitator of Sandow offered to pull on a rope with his teeth against any two men in the audience. The chronicle adds: "The furnace men volunteered, and at the first tug several of the strong man's teeth were drawn out. He retired from the stage bleeding and howling with pain." No doubt the fellow got what he deserved, but what most of the level of audiences that find fascination in such scenes?

It is now charged, although not proved, that the story of Maceo's assassination was deliberately manufactured out of whole cloth by four irresponsible newspaper correspondents located at Jacksonville, Fla. If so, the knives should be put behind the bars; but Spain has only herself to blame for past conduct that rendered the Maceo story plausible.

It has been suggested that inasmuch as the world's wheat crop is short 200,000,000 bushels this year, India and other famine countries try American corn. It is an admirable suggestion, but it will not prevail.

We believe the Philadelphia Record is the only paper which has objected to exempting fleeing Cubans from the provisions of the Lodge immigration bill. It will have few competitors for that distinction.

It is a good sign then the only complaint heard against the Lodge bill to restrict immigration is that it doesn't restrict enough.

POLITICAL OBSERVATIONS.

Here is a specimen of the dignified and lofty style which the Wanamaker literary bureau is supplying in ready-made pieces to its subsidized newspapers: "The Hon. John Penrose is an illustrious man. He himself has said it. The state of Pennsylvania will rejoice when it reads the autobiographical sketch so widely distributed to learn that he comes from a long line of illustrious ancestors, and is descended from some of the best stock of New England." The Hon. John Penrose never loses an opportunity to advertise the fact that his blood is blue, and that he is one of the "kid gloves" aristocracy." Presumably if Penrose had called his forebears cowards and scoundrels, the Wanamaker bureau would have been satisfied. Still, it is no crime in even this democratic republic to have a respectable ancestry.

The Montrose Independent Republican takes a sensible view of the senatorial fight which it asserts that the interests of Susquehanna county should take precedence of individual choice in that matter. "Susquehanna county," it adds, "will have a right to make of the legislature in the shape of the Erie appropriation bill. This is of great importance to every tax payer of the county. That bill cannot be passed unless through the co-operation of the majority element of the party in the assembly, which element is not in harmony with Mr. Wanamaker's aspirations."

As the result of a conference of the friends of Senator Penrose held in Philadelphia, which there was a careful summing up of the senatorial situation, it was announced that Mr. Penrose now had 117 senators and representatives who would possibly vote for him in the Republican caucus, and who could not under any circumstances be bought, bribed or cajoled into the support of any other candidate for the senatorship. It is believed, however, the vote for him will exceed this number.

It has been decided to hold the Republican United States senatorial caucus on Jan. 6, the day after the legislature meets. On the 19th the senate and house will vote separately for senator, and on the 29th both houses will meet in joint convention. The journals of the two houses will be read and the certificates signed. If none of the candidates has received a majority, the joint assembly of the Pennsylvania do not anticipate that the president-elect will make such mistake.

Philadelphia Press: "It is thought that Congressman-elect William Cornell, of Lackawanna, may be a candidate for the next Republican nomination for governor. Such a candidacy would interesting in the way through the northeastern part of the state."

Just a Word or Two of Casual Mention

The most recent addition to the list of local attorneys is John Leisenring Kemmerer, who was admitted to the bar last Saturday on motion of W. W. Watson. Mr. Kemmerer is a graduate of Amherst college and Harvard Law school. Mr. Kemmerer will be at once admitted to the law firm of Watson, Diehl & Hall, as a partner, and the firm name will be Watson, Diehl, Hall & Kemmerer.

Two years ago Havana leaf tobacco brought 90 cents a pound. Today it costs \$1.25. On Jan. 1 another big advance will be made. Some manufacturers have even notified their customers that for the present they will have to suspend the manufacture of a clear Havana cigar, because they have run out of tobacco and in a short time no more can be had at any price. This is the work of the Cuban revolution, and it has immediate interest for the \$800 to 1000 cigar smokers of Scranton, who will have to be content, hereafter, with the Yankee leaf.

While in Washington the other day E. L. Fuller was interviewed by a Post reporter on the salt question. He said: "The taking off of the \$100 per ton duty on salt in this country, but it gives tremendous boom to the importation of the Liverpool product. The advantage has been in favor of the foreigner, who can send his salt over in vessels of less tonnage than the American. This does not mean that the consumer has not reaped any benefit because prices are not any lower than they were before the duty was taken away." That is about the way free trade usually works.

McKINLEY AND THE TRUSTS.

From the Times-Herald. Mr. McKinley's supporters in the west have not been permitted to sit in listless contemplation of their own beatitude while the storm passed harmless over their heads. They have seen the lax enforcement of law in the interest of lawless aggregations of wealth, the cold-blooded and merciless destruction of small business enterprises, the corruption of legislators and the other familiar forms of corporation activity suddenly bearing fruit in the most destructive heresies ever promulgated in the name of a great political party. Having fought in the heat of the battle against this mischievous propaganda, they are interested in learning the causes of the strange disaffection; having ascertained the causes they will insist upon the application of remedies.

The first of these remedies must be the determined enforcement of federal laws against concentrations of wealth for the restriction of freedom of trade. This does not mean lay and half-hearted prosecutions, nor does it mean a rhetorical generalization in a president's message. It means the execution of the law in every instance as to persons of the penal clauses of the statutes. If the statutes be found inadequate, more stringent laws by congress until the result sought has been attained.

Mr. McKinley will take office unhandcapped and will have the power to remove to the interests which Mr. Cleveland says "crush out individual independence and hinder or prevent the free use of individual faculties." He knows that he was elected to improve as well as to protect the safeguards of personal liberty. His Republicanism is not of the kind that stands rooted to the spot where victory was won. He and his friends believe in going forward and capturing the enemy's guns and turning them upon the fleeing host. The rational causes of discontent will be destroyed, and with them, for a time at least, will disappear the spirit of surlily rebelliousness against just constitutional restrictions, which is the only powerful weapon of the so-called "new democracy."

A NEW YEAR'S FANTASY.

It was New Year's eve and I dreamt, And in it the year just passed Went by me in its funeral clothes, As we all shall be dressed at the last; And it laid itself down in a lonely spot, And covered its head with its mold; And the snows of its resting place, And winter blew chill and cold.

So I said in my dream: "Sleep well, Old Year! My grief for you is spent, You gave me days I would gladly have kept, But you took them when you went, And since nothing you leave me, no more can I grieve; Yet we parted as friends," said I, "But your day is done, and your place is filled, Good night, and good dreams, and good-bye."

Then suddenly in my startled ears Was the din of a trumpet's sound; And the long dead years of the long past "earth" Came rising up out of the ground, Thousands, an army, a multitude; They covered the land and the sea, With arms outstretched toward the just And eyes turned full on me.

And, as forth it passed to those beckoning With a sorrowful glance behind, I saw with a shudder that all were maimed, Or crippled, or halt, or blind, And a wail went up, the saddest wail That ears shall ever hear: "Ages and ages and ages past, And never a perfect year."

With menacing front they turned and stood With avenging faces then; Years where the souls of women were lost, And also the honor of men, Passions and hatreds and wrongs and And sins that I could not name Rolled over my head in resistless flood, And struck me down in my shame.

My heart was full of a strange resolve When I woke, and the dream was done, The night had vanished with the stars, And a new day had begun— A strange resolve I can never keep, To give to the world with its sorrowful past A new and a perfect year. —Virginia M. Cornell, in the Sun.

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FLORIDA Jacksonville tours, allowing two weeks in Florida, will leave New York and Philadelphia Jan. 28, Feb. 9 and 23, and March 2, 1897. Rate, covering expenses en route in both directions, \$50.00 from New York, and \$45.00 from Philadelphia.

WASHINGTON Tours, each covering a period of three days, will leave New York and Philadelphia Dec. 26, 1896, Jan. 28, Feb. 19, March 13, and April 15, 1897. For detailed itineraries and other information, apply at ticket agencies, or address George W. Boyd, assistant general passenger agent, Broad Street station, Philadelphia.

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