The Scranton Tribune

SCRANTON, DECEMBER 25, 1896.

And to think that Uncle Sam migh today, if it hadn't been for Grover, put a Xmas present of freedom in little Cuba's stocking!

The Day and Its Lesson.

The average holiday comes and goes, now gaining general observance and anon falling into equally general neglect; but Christmas goes on forever. It is the one holiday which may be said to be world-wide; and the only one in all the list, which ministers with equal graciousness to old and young, rich and poor, the despised and the elect, in every land and clime. It does good to have one day in 365 of honest, hearty democracy; one day when throughout the civilized world there is some real approach to human brotherhood. If the teachings of Him whose birth the day commemorates were literally obeyed. there would be more of such days in the passing years; but even for this one let us be duly grateful.

What special message does Christmas bring to the people of this community? The lessons of the day are many and varied; but we think that a thoughful glance about us will disclose one of clearly paramount importance. The career of the Nazarene, whether considered as to His divinity or as to His humanity, is pre-eminently a career of helpfulness to the meek, the weak and the lowly. "He went about doing good." He was active in works of mercy, Can we not stretch our imaginations so far as to think of the Christ in Scranton, and determine where, in all likelihood, He would first begin His ministrations of grace? Think you it would be among the rich, the educated, the well-to-do? Or would it not be among those lowly children of foreign lands who are transplanted among us, alien to our speech our customs and our laws, subject to our revilement and in their isolation irritating to the public peace? It was the divinity of Jesus that He

denied His help to no man; and so if He were, in person, today in Scranton, one can readily believe that His presence would be felt for good by every inhabitent. Yet it seems to us to involve no violence to the teachings of the sacred text when we imagine that those activities of His modern followers which would afford Him most pleasure would be, not the ministration by stately music and uplifting achitecture to souls already saved, but the small, crude, hand-to-hand struggle of Dr. Logan's Hungarian and Slovak kindergartens for the Americanization and Christianization of our vast foreignborn population. Knowing this, is the lesson not obvious?

Suppose 120 years ago there had been a man like Olney at the head of the foreign affairs of France. Where would

A National Revolution.

One of the main considerations which it is understood have inclined the present executive to conservatism in his treatment of the Cuban question, if not to actual dislike of the Cuban cause, has been the fact that at its beginning the revolt against Spain was chiefly the work of desperate and reckless spirits, men owning little or no property and having little or nothing to loose in the event of failure. It is frequently asserted and is doubtless true that at the outset the so-called "better element" in Cuba; that is, the property interests or as we would say the pristograts viewed the whole uprising with indifference or else with outspoken disapproval. This was only natural. Burden any man with property and, within certain limits, you make a coward of him. His first thought in any emergency is for his property and only when the latter is threatened does he manifest the combative tendencies of virile manhood.

But if this alignment of Cubans was true a year ago, it is true no longer. Upon this point we have a volume of trustworthy testimony which has probably gone far to influence the senate committee on foreign relations in its consideration of the independence resolution. As the revolution has spread and as Spanish cruelty, arrogance and injustice have gradually revealed themselves anew, without mask or concealment the Cuban heart has been fired, until rich has joined with poor in common resistance and the artificial distinctions born of peace have been melted down in the stress of war. Not to multiply testimony, we will offer in evidence simply one statement made in a letter from Havana, under date of Dec. 5, to the London Times. The Times certainly is not a prejudiced authority nor has its correspondent in Havana any personal connection with either side of the controversy. This letter dwells at length upon the fact that the white element now predominates largely in the rebel ranks, while the rebels possess the sympathy of nearly all educated Cubans. "The truth of which," the correspondent continues, "is seen in the number of prominent people sent as political prisoners to the Spanish penal settlements in the last six months. The worst elements of the rebellion have therefore disappeared, and the independent Cuban government, if weak, would at least be in the hands of educated and responsible men."

It is the weakness of that government which renders urgent our help as proffered through diplomatic recognition. If it were strong it would not need such recognition and there would be no humanity in giving it.

It is estimated by the state food commissioner that the citizens of Harrisburg are paying in excess of \$21,000 : year for the water which milk-dealers add to the milk that they retail in that city for 6 cents a quart. Harrisburg has one-third the population of Scranton and the price of milk here is 8 cents. Reasoning by analogy, therefore, we might conclude that our water-in-milk bill amounted annually to recommended that each township set

\$84,000, or one-third of the cost of the city government. But we cannot believe that our local milk dealers are

"The people of this state," observes Senator Chris Magee's Pittsburg mouthpiece, " knows where to look for reform when they want it." We might have known that Chris and Billy Flinn would keep a large quantity of it on

Stopping a Bad Leak.

One of the least defensible leaks which has hitherto existed in the national treasury has been the custom of paying double salaries to members of congress holding contested seats-one salary to the man returned as elected and another to the man confirmed by house investigating committee. Not only has this practice had a tendency greatly to stimulate the bringing of contests, but in some instances it is said to have led to direct collusion between successful and defeated candidates whereby the latter have been accorded fraudulent certificates of election and enabled to bleed the government until the former could establish their cases and divide the spolls,

A bill to put a stop to these manifest

injustices has been introduced in the house at Washington by Representative Aldrich of Alabama, and it deserves to pass. It makes it unlawful for the sergeant-at-arms of the house to pay any compensation whatever to any member whose right to his sent is contested until the member has filed with the sergeant-at-arms a bond, with approved security in the sum of \$10,000, that if the contest goes against him he will pay back to the United States all the money which he shall have received in the meantime as compensation, including mileage and stationery allowances. If the contest goes in his favor, then the bond is to be void. When a contest is decided against a member, it is made the duty of the sergeant-at-arms to demand the payment of the sums paid to him, and upon the failure or refusal of the unseated member to pay within thirty gays, the selicitor of the treasury must order suit brought against the bond and its sureties. The bill also provides that whenever a notice of contest is served upon a member it shall also be served upon the sergeant-at-arms of the house within twenty days. The final section of the bill fixes the time of its going into effect on March 4, 1897, providing, however, that contestants for seats in the Fifty-fifth congress shall have until March 24, 1897, to give the required notice to the sergeant-at-arms. There is no earthly reason why these

sensible precautions against robbery of the government should not be taken. No private employer would pay two salaries for one man's work.

And now it is Mexico which threatens to lead the way in recognition of Cuba's independence. The government at Washington should look to its laurels.

An Unanswered Objection.

empt is made by the Philadelphia Wharton against John Wanamaker's mits that Mr. Wanamaker is an importer, but endeavors to make out that serve the purpose quite as well, he is only an importer on the side, as it were, and that importing isn't his chie occupation.

terested peculiarly and directly in tariff don't believe it. legislation. The law forbids the appointment of an importer to be secretary of the treasury, for the obvious reason that the duties of the secretaryship and the interests of an importer are liable at any time to clash. There is the same reason in justice why an importer should not be clothed with and sincere. senatorial power of voting and scheming to help his own business at the

expense of the public welfare. But an even greater reason against the election of Wanamaker to the senate lies in the utterly pharisalcal. immoral and indecent methods which have characterized the promotion of his campaign. This alone would condemn him irrevocably.

Those who are predicting that Major McKinley will share Grover Cleveland's indifference to the cause of Cuba overlook one of the most interesting planks in the St. Louis platform.

An Unfortunate Attitude.

A singular attitude is maintained by Senator Hale, of Maine, on one of the uppermost issues of the day. He admits that a large majority of the American people favor such action by this government as will more clearly indicate their sympathy with the proposition that Cuba should be free from European domination; and likewise concedes that Spanish rule in the Antilles is foreign to the ideas which prevail in the American mainland. But while frankly recognizing these facts, he declares his intention to oppose by every means in his power any further action by congress in these premises, In other words, he simply defies th public which employs him and takes apparent pleasure in his ability to thwart its purpose,

We are told by those acquainted with the facts that Senator Hale is an intimate friend of the Spanish minister. Senor Dupuy de Lome; and that his ideas and often his very language concerning Cuba are received from that astute diplomatist. If this be true, the minister is entitled to extra congratulation upon his new showing of his very considerable adroitness. But as for Senator Hale, we suspect there will be general regret that so able a man should be so easily won from his duty to his American constitutents over to a voluntary service in behalf of Spain. In some cases such a transfer of allegiance would excite suspicion of unworthy influences; in the case of Mr Hale, however, the error is not of the

heart but of the head. It probably comes of the aristocratic exclusiveness for which he manifests so unfortunate a liking. If he were to mix more freely with his own countrymen the result might be and probably would be different.

At the instance of Judge Scott the Northampton county grand jury has apart a portion of its road tax to be spent in construction of permanent highways. The suggestion ought to be adopted. It would form the nucleus of a desirable reform.

According to the census of 1890 there were 499,879 legal voters in Indiana, but the vote cast at the late election amounted to 637,284, and the Democrats are crying fraud. We cannot agree with them. In addition to the fact that natural increase would account for much of this enlargement of the poll, it must be borne in mind that since the census of 1890, under stimulus of the Mc-Kinley bill hundreds of new glass and tin-plate factories were established in the natural gas belt in Indiana, bringing from 60,000 to 100,000 new workingmen into that state. This explains the size of the recent vote; and it also explains why McKinley carried Indi-

As a result of Spanish misrule the present debt of Cuba is \$425,000,000 which bears interest of from 5 to 6 per cent. This is almost \$400 for every white inhabitant of the island, or \$2,000 for each head of a family. At 5 per cent. the annual interest expense would be \$21,250,000; today the total revenues of the island are not more that \$10,000,000 a year. The condition upon which Spain would grant autonomy to Cuba is that Spain would continue to skim the cream off Cuban enterprise. What decent people would ever consent to such a negotiation while they had power left to fight for independence?

Mr. Wanamaker says that in 35 years he has employed upwards of 100,000 persons and has never had "what is known as a strike." This is certainly to his credit. But in those 35 years he has accumulated a generous fortune, which ought to be ample reward. There are many employers in Pennsylvania who present similar records and yet they don't offer that as a foundation to senatorial aspirations. A study of Wanamaker's pay roll would perhaps prove interesting in this connection.

A member of the Montgomery county bar suggests that the judges who are to assemble in Philadelphia on Tuesday to consider court reforms might, among other things, decide so to apportion appointments, as of auditors, commissioners and masters, among members of their bar as to give encouragement to worthy young nen who are struggling hard to gain professional foothold. The point is certainly well taken.

According to the press reports Mr. Bryan's initial appearance at Atlanta the other evening as a lecture was what might be termed a "frost." There is evidently a difference between ripsnorting before a crowd of delirious partisans and carrying eloquence and logic home to an audience of critical and dispassionate patrons of the lecture platform.

According to President Jordan, of Leland Stanford university, the one way An ingenious but inconclusive at- to prevent the seals from becoming extinct is to pass a law making it a mis-Press to parry the criticisms of Joseph demeanor to have in possession the pelt of a female seal. The suggestion is enatorial candidacy. The Press ad- plausible; but a law prohibiting th wearing of sealskin sacques would

It is announced that Speaker Reed is so violently opposed to the recognition Be that as it may, the Press cannot of Cuba that he will use his influence to blind the public to the fact that it stiffe the Cameron resolution and all would be manifestly improper to clothe similar documents whenever they come with law-making authority a man in- before the house, now or in future. We

Quite the most ridiculous theory of the departing year is the story that the free silver senators are agitating the Cuban question so as to break the force of their recent defeat. Even senators are sometimes disinterested Incidentally it might be remarked

that the message of the day-"peace or earth, and good will to men"-applie to Spain as well as to the United States and that often one of the best methods of securing peace is to enforce it.

The patriotism of Wall street is again showing itself in a vociferous squeal for peace. It is strange how the "ticker" deadens its patron's humanity.

It is not a new observation but it is a conspicuously true one that the happlest man on Christmas day is the one who has done his best to make others

After all. Mr . Olney got his money's worth of advertising.

SOMEWHAT SANGUINARY.

From the Boston Post. The practice of killing the doctor it are the patient dies is not to be comcase the patient dies is not to be commended, although in some of the in stances cited by Rider Haggard in his lurid tales of South Africa it seems to work well; but in its application to the case of "divine healers" who are springing up all over the country it might have the effect of salutary restraint.

A CANADIAN VIEW.

From the Montreal Herald. It is probable that the civilized world would heave a sigh of relief if the United States were to assume control of affairs in Cuba, and in due course annex the island. That seems to be the only way in which the immensely valuable commerce of Cuba will ever be so handled as to se cure the greatest profit to the Cuban-themselves, and to the world at large,

THE TRYST OF SANTA CLAUS.

For The Tribune. Long, long ago, In manger low, A primal star its sheen unfurled— Dissolved the night And brought to light A Holy Child to save the world,

Bethlehem's star Is sought ufar, When Christmas chime floats 'crost the moor.
The hope it brings
Tells blissful things

Unto the hearts of rich and poor.

Calvary's cry O'ercast the sky
To save the Blood from mocker's slight; But all was aflame With Jesus' name When He rose in heavenward flight.

Now, since that time. The frosted thyme Brings Santa Claus once ev'ry year. To keep the tryst For risen Christ With little children far and near,

DRAMATIC GOSSIP.

Irving will revive Richard III. McKee Rankin is in vaudeville. Sandow is performing in London. Lilli Lehmann is singing in Berlin.

Della Fox will shortly produce a r Beerbohm Tree has revived the "Dancing Girl." Calve says Wagner's music is the great-

st in the world.

Donnelly and Girard will star in "My Friend from India." Joseph Jefferson says he will act next senson in a role new to him. "Bluebeard" will be revived, and will be-gin its season New Year's week. Nordica will make a concert tour under

the direction of Klaw & Erlanger. Playwright Marguerite Merrington is a member of Minnie Maddern Fiske's com-The auction sale of Richard Mansfield's

oric-a-brae and curios brought over \$8,000, Mr. E. J. Henley will be the lachimo in Miss Margaret Mather's forthcoming pro-duction of "Cymbeline," at Wallack's, E. E. Rice's production of the "Girl from Paris' enlists the services of Charles Dickson, Charles E. Bigelow, Joseph W. Herbert and Clara Lipman.

Companies that have given up the chost: "Old Kentucky," "Great Diamond Robbery," "The Hustler," "Night at Circus," Frank Cushman, Thornton Vaude ville company.

One of the "Uncle Tom's Cabin" companies that roam the west is distinguished by a genuine negro seven feet tall in the

role of Tom. He is a fetching feature of the street parade. "The Deserted Village," a Irish opera, adapted from Goldsmith's famous poem, was given its first Ameri-can production in New York last week. can production in New York last week, Professor J. W. Glover, the eminent Dublin composer, wrote the music.

SCANDAL MONGERING.

From the Philadelphia Times.

The men who in studied deceit misled better men than themselves to believe evil reports of Penrose, have been brought shame in this city, where they have be challenged in voin to furnish accusers. The man who attempts to defeat either Mr. Wanamaker or Mr. Penrose by prograce himself and aid rather than hinds the candidate he assails,

From the Philadelphia Bulletin.

Senator Penrose, in causing the arrest on the charge of libel of a strolling preach. er in Bucks county, who has been public. y charging him with being an atheist and profligate, has done exactly the right thing for the vindication of his character. The canvass for Cameron's seat in the United canvass for Cameron's seat in the United States senate has already been cruptive of a good deal of nasty scandal, and there should be no mercy for the sewer rats, whoever or wherever they may be or on whomsoever they may scatter their noxi-ous slime. It is especially deplorable when those who perform the sacred of-fices of religion have neither the caution nor the charity to examine into the gossionor the charity to examine into the gossi; and tittle-tattle which follow public men and all right-thinking men, without re gard to politics, will be glad to see an ex ample made of the careless or malignan retailers of petty scandal.

WORTHY OF STUDY.

From the Washington Post. Mr. McKinley's popular plurality over Mr. Bryan is about 600,000 out of a tota vote of 13,924,623—in round numbers 14,000,000. In 1872, out of a total vote of 6,500,000. Grant's popular plurality over Greeley was more than 750,000—or 150,000 in excess of the McKinley plurality, although the McKinley total of 7,105,480 is more than 500,000—or warmed a warregate. 00,500 greater than the grand aggregat of all parties in 1872. There was no issu in that campaign commensurate in im-portance with the issue of '95. The fac: therefore, that McKinley's plurality, on a vote about double that of '72, is less than that of Grant is a matter worthy of study.

HAVE THEIR USES.

From the Chicago Evening Post, Our good friend, Mr. Moody, is a little Sunday newspapers. We have found then very useful for dumbbell practice, and in lies have told us that they are perfectly lovely for purposes of decorating the pantry shelves, while simple statistics show that one Sunday paper will start the

THE PROPER REFORM.

From the Philadelphia Bulletin. What Representative Barrett should ia bor for is an official bestowal upon the members of the cabluet of the right to sit in either house of congress and ad vise and participate in the debates. This would go far to facilitate the public busi-

TOLD BY THE STARS.

Daily Horoscope Drawn by Ajacchus The Tribune Astrologer. Astrolabe cast: 12.01 a. m., for Friday Dec. 25, 1896.

T. (1) A. A child born on this day will probably be impressed with a desire to investigate the ontents of every stocking in sight.

If light pocket-books were conductive o light hearts all might be happy today except the merchants. We apologize to our readers for trying

to palm off as news the announcement that beer and ale are going down.
The Powers, of course, would each like
a large piece of Turkey for Christmas. Snowflakes.

On Christmas morn a maiden fair Declared her friends were shocking; Because, in jest, they said that there Was not much in her stocking.



Even Santa Claus would do it, if he had tussle with the shirts that some men.

wear.

Be a sensible little Santa Claus. Buy your husband something that he really needs. For instance, a half-dozen good shirts, and a really pretty tie, instead of the monstrosity he wears. Zero prices.



Before Christmas.

Only Two Days More

Any one of them is worth any three days of ordinary merchandising. All of the Holiday Stock must be disposed of within this short time.

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