

The Scranton Tribune

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And to think that Uncle Sam might 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.

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 thoughtful glance about us will disclose one of clearly paramount importance.

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 inhabitant.

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

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 desperates and reckless spirits, men owning little or no property and having little or nothing to lose in the event of failure.

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.

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.

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 a year for the water which milk-dealers add to the milk that they retail in that city for 8 cents a quart.

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

"The people of this state," observes Senator Chris Magee's Pittsburg mouth-piece, "knows where to look for reform when they want it."

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—only salary to the man returned as elected and another to the man confirmed by the house investigating committee.

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 seat 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.

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.

An ingenious but inconclusive attempt is made by the Philadelphia Press to parry the criticisms of Joseph Wharton, against John Wanamaker's senatorial candidacy.

Be that as it may, the Press cannot blind the public to the fact that it would be manifestly improper to clothe with law-making authority a man interested peculiarly and directly in tariff 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.

But an even greater reason against the election of Wanamaker to the senate lies in the utterly pharisaical, 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 independence to the cause of Cuba overlook one of the most interesting planks in the St. Louis platform.

An Unfortunate Attitude.

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.

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.

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At the instance of Judge Scott the Northampton county grand jury has recommended that each township set

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 McKinley bill hundreds of new glass and tin-plate factories were established in the natural gas belt in Indiana, bringing from 90,000 to 100,000 new workmen into that state.

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 than \$10,000,000 a year.

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.

A member of the Montgomery county bar suggests that the judges who are to assist in Philadelphia on Tuesday to consider court reforms might, among other things, decide so to appoint appointments, as of auditors, commissioners and masters, among members of their bar as to give encouragement to worthy young men who are struggling hard to gain a professional foothold.

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 rip-roaring 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 Lehigh University, the one way to prevent the seals from becoming extinct is to pass a law making it a misdemeanor to have in possession the pelt of a female seal. The suggestion is plausible; but a law prohibiting the wearing of sealskin saques would serve the purpose quite as well.

It is announced that Speaker Reed is so violently opposed to the recognition of Cuba that he will use his influence to stifle the Cameron resolution and all similar documents whenever they come before the house, now or in future. We don't believe it.

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 and sincere.

Incidentally it might be remarked that the message of the day—"peace on earth, and good will to men"—applies 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 "dicker" deadens its patron's humanity.

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

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

SOMEWHAT SANGUINARY.

The practice of killing the doctor in case the patient dies is not to be commended, although in some of the instances cited by Rider Haggard in his lurid tales of South Africa it seems to work well; but the 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.

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 secure the greatest benefit to the Cubans themselves, and to the world at large.

THE TRYST OF SANTA CLAUS.

Long, long ago, in manner low, A primal star his shewn unfurled— Dissolved the night, And brought to light, A Holy Child to save the world.

Bethlehem's star Is sought afar, When Christmas chime floats 'tread the moor. 'Tis hope it brings This blissful things Unto the hearts of rich and poor. Calvary's cry O'ercrest 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 every year, To keep the tryst For risen Christ With little children far and near. —Cecil Lealie.

DRAMATIC GOSSIP.

Irving will revive Richard III. McKee Rankin is in vaudiville. Sandow is performing in London. Lilli Lehmann is singing in Berlin. Della Fox will shortly produce a new opera. Beerbohm Tree has revived the "Dancing Girl."

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

SCANDAL MONGERING.

The men who in studied deceit misled better men than themselves to believe evil reports of Penrose, have been brought to shame in this city, where they have been challenged in vain to furnish accusers. The man who attempts to do either Mr. Wanamaker or Mr. Penrose by proclaiming individual scandal can only disgrace himself and aid rather than hinder the candidate he assails.

WORTHY OF STUDY.

Mr. McKinley's popular plurality over Mr. Bryan in about 90,000 out of a total vote of 1,324,653—in round numbers 14,000,000. In 1872, out of a total vote of 6,200,000, Grant's popular plurality over Greeley was more than double that in excess of the McKinley plurality, although the McKinley total of 2,100,489 is more than 500,000 greater than the grand aggregate of all votes that were cast in 72. It is less than that of Grant is a matter worthy of study.

HAVE THEIR USES.

Our good friend, Mr. Moody, is a little unreasonable in his attitude toward the Sunday newspapers. We have found them very useful for dullbell practice, and ladies have told us that they are perfectly lovely for purposes of decorating the parlor shelves, while simple statistics show that one Sunday paper will start the kitchen fire for a week.

THE PROPER REFORM.

What Representative Barrett should labor for is an official bestowal upon the members of the cabinet of the right to sit in either house of congress and advise and participate in the debates. This would go far to facilitate the public business.

TOLD BY THE STARS.

Daily Horoscope Drawn by Ajaxchus The Tribune Astrologer. Astralobe cast: 12:01 a. m., for Friday, Dec. 25, 1896.

A child born on this day will probably be impressed with a desire to investigate the contents of every stocking in sight. If light pocket-books were conducive to light hearts all might be happy today, except the merchants.

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.

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GOLDSMITH'S BAZAAR

Only Two Days More Before Christmas.

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.

THE BOOKS, THE TOYS, THE GAMES, THE DOLLS,

All of the Fancy Articles must be sold. We Carry Nothing Over. Prices have been put on all of these goods that are irresistibly cheap.

Do your shopping early in the day if you can and avoid the rush.

THERE ARE OTHERS BUT NONE IN SCRANTON which can compare in any way with our mammoth tailoring establishment. Our line in Suitings, Trouserings and Overcoatings is as complete as you will find in any city.

Nothing but the Price of Our Skates is SKATES. With every pair of Skates we will give a ticket which will entitle the purchaser to one Chance on a Spalding Bicycle, 1897 Model.

FOOTE & SHEAR CO., 119 Washington Avenue. SPECIAL Offer for December. Our prices already the lowest in Scranton, greatly reduced. Take advantage of this, our greatest offer of the year, and make yourself a Xmas present of Made to Order Suit or Overcoat for \$14.00 Or at Least a Pair of Trousers for \$3.00

GREAT ATLANTIC PANTS CO., 319 Lacka Ave. CALL UP 3682 MALONEY OIL AND MANUFACTURING CO. Oils, Vinegar and Cider

DR. C. W. GREEN, PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON, Electrical Treatment a Specialty. Office, 607, 608 and 609 Mears Building, SCRANTON, PA. HILL & CONNELL, 131 & 133 Washington Ave. WOLF & WENZEL, 531 Linden, Opp. Court House. PRACTICAL TINNERS and PLUMBERS

SKATES. With every pair of Skates we will give a ticket which will entitle the purchaser to one Chance on a Spalding Bicycle, 1897 Model. We have a full line of indoor Games for the Holidays. Florey's, Wyoming Avenue, Y. M. C. A. BUILDING.

HILL & CONNELL'S NOVELTIES FOR THE HOLIDAYS. Our Holiday Display of useful and ornamental articles was never so large as this season's exhibit.

MERCEREAU & CONNELL ESTABLISHED THIRTY YEARS. NOW IN OUR NEW STORE, 130 WYOMING AVENUE. Coal Exchange, Opp. Hotel Jermyn. We have the finest store and most complete stock in all this section.

YOU CAN SAVE MONEY BY BUYING NEW AND SECOND-HAND CLOTHING Ladies' and Children's Wear. Seal and Plush Sacques, Carpets and Feather Beds From L. POSNER, 21 Lackawanna Ave.

Fountain Pens Oxford Bibles Catholic Prayer Books. We have the Largest and Most Complete Line of Holiday Goods in the city. Reynolds Bros. Stationers and Engravers, HOTEL JERMYN BUILDING. MERCEREAU & CONNELL ESTABLISHED THIRTY YEARS. NOW IN OUR NEW STORE, 130 WYOMING AVENUE. Coal Exchange, Opp. Hotel Jermyn. We have the finest store and most complete stock in all this section.

WATCHES, FINE JEWELRY, DIAMONDS, STERLING SILVER WARE, STERLING SILVER NOVELTIES, RICH CUT GLASS, CLOCKS, ETC. Our Prices are always bottom.

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