

The Scranton Tribune

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

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

SCRANTON, DECEMBER 26, 1896.

The supposition that Spain would declare war against the United States should the latter recognize the independence of Cuba is exceedingly far-fetched. But is the American republic to be deterred from the performance of a duty to humanity by fear?

"Not Ready for War."

We reprint on this page an interesting excerpt from the Washington correspondence of Mr. William E. Curtis, one of the ablest of Spain's apologists and special pleaders. One does not have to concur in Mr. Curtis' views of the Cuban question to recognize the timeliness of his citation of facts relative to our unpreparedness for hostilities with a foreign power. If the conditions are as he depicts them, congress cannot too speedily make haste to correct them by voting money to establish a respectable reserve quantity of munitions of war. Money thus spent would do much to assure continued peace, not only with Spain, but with all mankind.

But the one egregious error in this whole matter is the supposition that recognition of the Cubans would necessarily entail war. The stock brokers, boards of trade, college professors and Mugwumps who are now raising a plaintive chorus of protest against the Cameron resolution and lauding Secretary Olney for a bit of official insolence which, if time permitted, would warrant his impeachment, are all on what is very probably a wrong scent. If the course proposed in that resolution were to be adopted by a unanimous vote of congress, it would not constitute a casus belli. There have been in our history more than a dozen instances of similar recognition without entailing war. The only thing which could provoke war would be the intransigence of Spanish mobs; and shall it be written in the last hours of the nineteenth century that 70,000,000 civilized Americans were frightened away from a performance of moral duty by the spiteful sputterings of a few thousand semi-barbarous hoodlums in Barcelona and Madrid?

No sensible American wants war. No thoughtful citizen of the United States would object to reasonable concessions to avoid it. For nearly two years we have stood with folded arms while armed conflict eighty miles from our southeastern boundary was converting the fairest isle on earth into a slaughter-pen, jeopardizing the lives of American citizens and imperiling the millions of dollars' worth of American investments held in Cuba. A time has come when we must either fish or cut bait. The purpose of the Cameron resolution is not war, but peace—peace on a basis of human liberty. If war should come it could come only by being forced upon us. Are we to understand that those who praise so justly the merits of peace would wish to purchase it with national shame?

The amiable editor of the Philadelphia Press asserts, "without prejudice," that Mr. Wanamaker has more members of the legislature pledged to him for senator than any other candidate. On the other hand, Representative Scott, of Philadelphia says Senator Penrose has already 152 pledges. As there are only 215 Republican members in all, one of the two gentlemen must be misinformed.

Not Well Taken.

The remedy suggested by ex-Attorney General Miller, of Indiana, for the evils arising from "trusts" is two-fold. He would have congress revise federal legislation on this subject so as to escape the objections lately interposed by the Supreme court and at the same time to secure greater efficiency. Then as to supplemental legislation by the various states he holds, in a general way, that "the state should make it unlawful for any one to engage in, abet, promote or encourage combinations having for their purpose the raising of prices or the restriction of opportunities for labor. The duty should be laid upon the prosecuting attorney of the county and the attorney general of the state to proceed against such combinations and as an incentive beyond the official oath that the full duty will be performed the prosecuting officers should be authorized to retain one-half the penalty for the infraction of the law when proved and collected. As a further means of prevention the law should provide that any citizen suffering damages on account of such combination and restriction of his opportunities should recover in such sum as the court might think just and right."

This programme, it occurs to us, is better as to the method of its enforcement than as to its fundamental principles. The latter, as will appear on examination, are not well taken. The restriction of opportunities for labor is a very common incident of commercial combinations; and while there may be cases wherein the law should be invoked for the protection of labor, it is difficult to see how a general prohibition of such restrictions could be justified. For instance, two factories in one town operate in competition at a loss until a consolidation is effected. The merging of interests discloses two sets of executive officials, only one of which is needed under the new regime. Under Mr. Miller's proposition the courts could be invoked to prevent any restriction of the opportunities of this double shift of officials to labor, but on no principle of common sense could such intervention be defended. One of the prime objects of combination is economy and this would be defeated were the Miller suggestion to gain legal prevalence. An example of combination for economy's sake was afforded locally when the Lackawanna and the Scranton Steel companies were merged. It can hardly be held that the perpet-

uation of the competition of those two once rival concerns was for the public advantage.

As showing the difficulty of prescribing a general remedy for cases which differ so widely in purpose and circumstance as do the restrictive agreements commonly called "combinations," it is only necessary to cite the instance of what the unthinking observer would denigrate the "anthracite coal trust." In many states there is public outcry for legal prosecution of this so-called trust. Now, what are the facts? They are, in brief, that nature, not law, has put within a limited area and under narrow ownership and control virtually a monopoly of anthracite fuel. It is not a renewable commodity; once mined, it is gone for all time. Therefore as a fact quite beyond the reach of statute law, each ton mined makes more valuable the decreased number of unmined tons. Mathematically, the supply is a constant and the demand an increasing variable; consequently the price, in the long run, is bound to rise. But owing to bad management and various collateral ills, the price was for a time below the level of equity and a concerted endeavor was made on the part of the men whose property was thus put in jeopardy to lift it up again. At once superficial observers raised the cry of robbery and extortion, and demagogues took advantage of the occasion to make capital of their own.

Under Attorney General Miller's proposition, as quoted above, the law could be invoked to punish owners and producers of coal for endeavoring to secure from consumers a price that would repay them for depleted stock, afford interest on actual investment, pay necessary expenses and leave a fair margin of profit. This clearly would be unjust. It is evident that Mr. Miller has not hit the pivot of the difficulty. The question is, Who can?

The esteemed Olyphant Record wants to know if a disclaimer from John Wanamaker would satisfy The Tribune of his innocence. Not when it has direct knowledge of his guilt.

Weyler's Side of It.

To a representative of the Pittsburg Times who visited him December 18 at his palace in Havana, and was introduced as an American newspaper man desirous of telling the truth, General Weyler said: "Prove what you say—tell the truth, and Spain's warmest defender will make no complaint. But always bear this in mind as you write—this is a time of war. These Cuban subjects of Spain have been and are in revolt. Spaniards consider no offense worse than that of treason, and treat it severely. War itself is always severe, and its measures harsh. They cannot, of necessity, be gentle. Rebels are not treated with gloved hands. Mutiny is quelled only by hard knocks. You must remember that this is not a war in the generally accepted meaning of the term. The insurgents do not fight in the open; their course is rather that of the bandit. The people of the United States have been misled by the false use of such terms as 'patriots,' 'freedom,' 'struggle for liberty,' 'monarchical tyranny' and other similar phrases, which here in Cuba have no place or meaning whatever among the insurgents."

This correspondent himself—Austin Beach, the city editor of the Times and a journalist who ranks among the most trustworthy in Pittsburg—was evidently much impressed by Weyler, and the impression for the greater part was favorable. He writes:

Though I did not get this from General Weyler, personally, he is represented as having said to a friend, in a conversation about the hubbub raised in the United States over the reported murder of Maceo, that the American people know more about governing and caring for themselves than any other people in the world, but that when they undertook to mix in outside matters and pass in judgment on the motives and aims of other nations, their attitude was one at such wide variance with that of good sense displayed in home matters that one could scarcely believe they were the same people. I have said that General Weyler was vexed over these reports; he was and is vexed only in so far as they reflect on the honor of Spain's soldiers. To strike him there is to hit a tender spot, and arouse resentment, otherwise, he gives the impression of being a tireless, active, keen, wide-awake man of a kindly disposition and broad views. They do say that at heart he is a republican, and would like to see Spain made a republic, but he is a soldier, and the obligations he has assumed as such make of him as staunch a supporter of the crown as there is in all the kingdom. Doubtless he has his faults and many of them, but could all those who have been so free in criticising him meet him under the circumstances I did, much of that criticism would be dismissed.

The difference between General Weyler and the American people is simply a difference in standpoint. He thinks whatever command Spain gives should be met by implicit obedience by Cubans; that the latter should be willing without complaint to be taxed into poverty, to be cheated by false promises of governmental reform and to be bullied and baited by a rapacious horde of insolent and arrogant Spanish officials out in a general way. These things come natural to Weyler. He has been reared amidst such surroundings and doesn't know any better. But Americans have other opinions on the subject. They do not consider that the man who rebels from such a state of tyranny is really a traitor, though he may be one nominally under forms of law. They cannot agree with General Weyler that it is their duty to sit quiet while he, as the representative of Spain, introduces in his attempts to quell the just revolt of the Cuban people methods which would have shamed the Dark Ages.

If the Honorable John Wanamaker wants to make a ten-strike in his speech at Erie Monday night, let him publicly state whether he approves or disapproves of the hiring in his behalf of traveling "evangelists," for the purpose of spreading scandal against his opponent, the Hon. Boies Penrose. He knows that these defamers of character have been busy in his interest; that they have spent money in such freedom as to indicate a generous supply of it; and their work is not more contemptible than has been much of the work of his two direct lieutenants, Leach and Van Valkenberg, in which he has notoriously been particeps criminis. Either he favors lying about

Penrose or he does not. Let him then, inform the public just where he stands.

The history of strikes is full of foolishness; but it remained for the Boston street car employees to cast the climax with a strike, not for higher wages or better treatment—these were conceded to be satisfactory—but simply for the recognition of a certain union. It is such occasional false steps as this that bring labor organizations into disfavor which in the main is not deserved.

Greater New York is to have one mayor and five "presidents." It looks as if New York had at last realized that her day of president-making on a larger scale has passed.

NOT READY FOR WAR.

W. E. Curtis, in Chicago Record. Army and navy officers are reluctant to talk about such things, but there is no denying the fact that the United States is not ready for war. We now have a fleet of ships, a much better navy than Spain. We have four of the finest battleships, equal in every respect to anything that floats, which are better than any, which is neither so large nor so well armed as the Massachusetts, Indiana, Oregon or Iowa. She has two second-class battleships that are better than ours of the same grade, but she has no sea coast defenders, while we have six monitors that are equal to anything of their class in the world. She has four armored cruisers, while we have but two, but we have ten protected cruisers where she has but two. In partially protected cruisers the two nations are about even in tonnage and guns. In and in tonnage, but in torpedo boats the Spanish navy is very much superior to ours. If the two nations should meet at sea and fight it out, there is no question of a final victory for the United States, although Spain might win the first few battles. Of course, we could raise larger armies and larger fleets. Spain is a wealthy nation, while Spain is poor. Our credit is strong, but hers is weak, and has been exhausted in the money centers of the world. It would be impossible for Spain to make a loan of any large amount with foreign bankers. Her last attempt was a failure, and she was compelled to appeal to her own people, who responded promptly and generously. Their resources are limited, and it would not be possible for them to duplicate the money they have already given to suppress the insurrection in Cuba.

The weak point in our condition however is that we have so many important cities on our sea coast undefended. There is not one on the Atlantic coast, from Eastport to Galveston, that could resist or protect itself from destruction. If it were visited by a Spanish fleet, a single gunboat in a single day could do more damage to the United States and destroy more property than the Spanish army has destroyed in Cuba since the war began. It is also an important fact that our army and navy both lack ammunition, which cannot be furnished in a moment. It is the duty of the government to see that all the ammunition in possession of the navy of the United States is stored in magazines of the ships that are floating today, and our great battleships and modern monitors are practically helpless and useless after a few hours of fighting. Dispatches from Wilmington say that the powder works there are running night and day, and that the contracts. On the other hand, Spain is prepared for war. She is ready to fight at the drop of the hat, while it would take six or eight months or a year to arm and equip our navy.

Last year Secretary Herbert sent an urgent appeal to congress asking for authority to enlist 2,000 men for service, and he showed that he had no more sailors now with our splendid new fleet than had twenty years ago, when the navy consisted of a lot of old wooden tubs that had been kept floating since the war. Congress refused his appeal, and as a consequence there is not a ship in the United States navy that has more than half a crew. Nor is it possible to put the ships on a war footing in a month or two. The modern man-of-war is a monstrous machine, filled with engines and electric apparatus, machine guns and all sorts of tackle that requires skilled and experienced men to handle. And a modern sailor must be a machine gunner, a minuteman and an expert marksman. It is not possible to train a crew of a modern man-of-war in a month or two. The modern man-of-war is a monstrous machine, filled with engines and electric apparatus, machine guns and all sorts of tackle that requires skilled and experienced men to handle. And a modern sailor must be a machine gunner, a minuteman and an expert marksman. It is not possible to train a crew of a modern man-of-war in a month or two. The modern man-of-war is a monstrous machine, filled with engines and electric apparatus, machine guns and all sorts of tackle that requires skilled and experienced men to handle. And a modern sailor must be a machine gunner, a minuteman and an expert marksman. It is not possible to train a crew of a modern man-of-war in a month or two.

Our army is in even worse condition than the navy. We have about 2,000 men, but they would not be one-fourth as many as are necessary to man the fortifications along the coast, even if we had guns for them to use. Of course we could enlist 100,000 men within a month or six weeks if there was danger of invasion, but, as Li Hung Chang suggested when I was in Havana, they would have nothing to fight with, and ammunition would not be made in a day, and they cannot be purchased like dress goods or groceries. Therefore, as the great viceroy remarked, when commenting upon the situation of the Cuban army, "the only thing that our soldiers could do in case of a sudden attack upon our sea coast would be to throw sticks and stones at the enemy, like a lot of old women."

The judges who are making the investigation in the newspapers and the United States senate have also failed to consider the cost of a war in human lives, as well as money. If our army and navy were to Cuba, which is a very small part of it, would ever return to this country. The malarial fevers of that climate have done more to prevent the suppression of the rebellion than the arms of the insurgents, and recent dispatches tell us that there are now 14,000 men in the hospitals of Havana alone, without including as many more who are suffering from the same disease in other cities. The climate of Cuba would be even more deadly to an American than to a Spaniard, because the latter are not accustomed to the cool temperature and the comforts and luxuries which our people enjoy.

SHEER FOLLY.

From the Pittsburg Gazette. It is folly to speak slightly of Penrose's ability or of his standing among the people of his home city, even in comparison with that of Mr. Wanamaker, after the pronounced popular expression of Tuesday evening. It proves that there is more behind the Penrose movement than the mere push of a political machine.

naturally suggests the inquiry whether Senator Kauffman carried his faith "in justice's" light over into Huntington county and imbued the Journal with it. As Mr. Kauffman represents Mr. Wanamaker's interests up to date in Harrisburg, it is evident that Mr. Wanamaker has lost a golden opportunity to disavow his agent's improper use of money in controlling newspapers.

MORE WANAMAKERISM.

The following public statement has been made by Representative-elect B. G. Keefer, of Westmoreland county, over his own signature: "Owing to various reports which have been published in the Pittsburg newspapers relating to the bribery and attempted bribery of members of the legislature from Fayette and Westmoreland counties, I wish to make a personal statement of the matter so far as it relates to me. During the latter part of March, 1896, a gentleman who gave his name as J. B. Meredith, called at the treasurer's office in Greensburg, and asked for a private interview with me. I granted it, when he asked me if I were not a candidate for the legislature. I told him I was, and he then said that he thought they would be in a position to help me. Not knowing at that time what he meant I said: 'I would be glad for any help I could get.' When he said he would see me later, 'In a few days he called again, but I was not in the office. A short time afterward he telephoned me from Pittsburg one morning to meet him that evening at the Union depot. I consulted a friend who advised me to go and see what he wanted. I then telephoned him that I would meet him that evening in the Union depot. I went to Pittsburg that evening and found him waiting for me. He said: 'I suppose you want to know what I called you here for.' I replied that I did. He said they wanted to help me in my nomination, and that if I would promise one thing he would give me \$300 to pay my election expenses.' I asked him what he wanted me to promise to do and he said: 'To vote for the man we name for the United States senate.' I told him that I would not promise to vote for a man for United States senator whose name I did not even know. He then asked me what I thought of John Wanamaker. I said: 'I do not know much about Mr. Wanamaker; that he was probably a very good man, but I could not consider his proposition; that if I were nominated and elected I would have an oath to take at Harrisburg and I did not propose to commit perjury or accept a bribe.' "He replied, saying that if I took such a serious view of it, we would drop the matter. Since that time I have not been approached by any one with an offer of money to vote for any candidate for United States senator."



Weather and Other Predictions for the Coming Week.

Sunday, Dec. 27.—Venus parallel to Saturn. Weather cold. A child born on this day will be unfortunate. Ask no favors.

Monday, Dec. 28.—Venus trine to Neptune, Snow and frost. A child born on this day will be a success in business and rise in life; a female will get a good husband. Transact all business in the morning.

Tuesday, Dec. 29.—Mercury sesquiquadrate to Jupiter. Weather cold. A child born on this day will be very lucky; a female will marry well. Seek work and push business.

Wednesday, Dec. 30.—Mercury sextile to Saturn. Weather cold. A child born on this day will never lack friends, yet will be indolent and careless. Avoid females.

Thursday, Dec. 31.—Sun near the earth and trine to Jupiter. Weather cold and stormy. A child born on this day will be very unlucky in all that it undertakes and will be careless and worthless. Doubtful for business.

Friday, Jan. 1, 1897.—Weather cold and unsettled. A child born on this day will be irritable and possess a bad temper. Court and marry.

Saturday, Jan. 2.—Sun semi-square to Herschel. Weather stormy. A child born on this day will have a quiet career; a female will be in danger of getting a bad husband. An uncertain day.

TOLD BY THE STARS.

Daily Horoscope Drawn by Ajacicus The Tribune Astrologer. Astrolabe cast: 2:23 a. m., for Saturday, Dec. 26, 1896.

A child born on this day will notice that there is no seal brown taste in the mouth of the man who observed Christmas in a proper manner yesterday.

Uncle John Wanamaker's halo will probably become as unshapely as a last year's golf cap before the senatorial disturbance has been quelled.

Wilkes-Barre is to have a bicycle tournament. Anything with "wheels" will, of course, be popular in the settlement near Miner's Mills.

Prophets and seafarers receive no honors in their own country.

It is safe to wager that the fellows who desire to fight for Cuba cannot swim.

Snowflakes. He that on yesterday was merry By interviews with Tom and Jerry. Will feel no inspiration gay Beneath his dome of thought today.

CHRISTMAS

Rush is over, but we still have a few choice goods in

LAMPS, CHINA, BRIC-A-BRAC, CUT GLASS

That will do nicely for a New Year gift.

THE

Clemons, Ferber,

O'Malley Co.,

434 Lackawanna av.

SANTA CLAUS

Sends his book orders to our

HOLIDAY STORE

211 Wash. Ave., Opp. Court House.

BEIDLEMAN, THE BOOKMAN

437 Spruce Street.

GOLDSMITH'S BAZAAR.

All Holiday Goods left over from the Christmas trade must be disposed of within the next few days. We take Inventory the first week in January and will not pack these goods away. Therefore come and take them at your own price. GOLDSMITH BROTHERS & COMPANY.

THERE ARE OTHERS BUT NONE IN SCRANTON which can compare in any way with our mammoth tailoring establishment. Our line in Suits, Trousers and Overcoatings 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 Proprietor. Branch 14. 427 Lackawanna Avenue, Scranton, Pa. Branch 14.

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. We have a full line of indoor Games for the Holidays. Florey's, Wyoming Avenue, Y. M. C. A. BUILDING. 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 of WATCHES, FINE JEWELRY, DIAMONDS, STERLING SILVER WARE, STERLING SILVER NOVELTIES, RICH CUT GLASS, CLOCKS, ETC. Our Prices are always bottom. If you have not seen us in our new store it will pay you to call. 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 Av.

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, 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 We show whole rolls of cloth. Not short length samples. GREAT ATLANTIC PANTS CO., Branch 25 319 Lacka Av. Branch 25

HILL & CONNELL'S NOVELTIES FOR THE HOLIDAYS. Our Holiday Display of useful and ornamental articles was never so large as this season's exhibit. The advantage of having so large and varied an assortment to select from will be apparent to all who contemplate giving presents of a substantial and artistic character, or buying for their own use. Writing Desks, Dressing Tables, Cheval Glasses, Couches, Rockers, Reclining and Easy Chairs, Music Cabinets, Parlor Cabinets and Tables, Work Tables, Curio Cases, Tea Tables, Vernis-Martin Cabinets, Parlor and Fancy Inlaid Chairs, Gilt Reception Chairs, Parlor Suits in Gilt, Pedestals, Jardinières, Book Cases, Shaving Stands all marked at moderate prices in plain figures.

MALONEY OIL AND MANUFACTURING CO. CALL UP 3682; Oils, Vinegar and Cider. OFFICE AND WAREHOUSE, 641 TO 1st MERIDIAN STREET. M. W. COLLINS, Manager.

DR. C. W. GREEN, PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON, Electrical Treatment a Specialty. Offices, 607, 608 and 609 Mears Building, SCRANTON, PA. The most complete equipment of Electrical machine and appliances for medical use to be found in a physician's office outside of New York. Medical and electrical treatment for all cases amenable to either or both. C. W. GREEN, M. D., 607, 608 and 609 Mears Building, Scranton. Hours—9 a.m. to 12 p.m.; 7:30 to 9

HILL & CONNELL, 131 & 133 Washington Av. WOLF & WENZEL, 231 Linden, Opp. Court House. PRACTICAL TINNERS and PLUMBERS. Sole Agents for Richardson-Boynton's Furnaces and Ranges.