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SCRANTON, DECEMBER 31, 1896.

It is in order for Thomas Dolan to define "legitimate" campaign expenditures.

Ours to Decide.

Says a dispatch from Madrid: "The Spanish generals here agree that it is possible to reduce the insurrection in Cuba to a few months with the forces now on the island, but they share the opinion of General Weyler that complete pacification of the rest of the island would require a much longer time unless the rebels should be convinced that the chances of outside assistance are sure to diminish in consequence of the Spanish government coming to an understanding, even in an unofficial way, with the United States to settle the Cuban question."

In other words, it is for the United States government to say, by its actions in the premises, whether Cuba shall revert in bondage to Spain or continue with hopefulness to fight for independence. By Spain's own admissions, we here in America hold within our hands Cuba's destiny and can, if we will, determine whether she shall be slave or free. This is what the foregoing citation means, when read between the lines.

For our part we dissent from half of this hypothesis. There is no doubt that the recognition by the United States of the independence of Cuba would have the effect, within a comparatively brief time after its formal promulgation, to bring to an end Spanish sovereignty in the American hemisphere. It is, therefore, within our power to make Cuba free, and that, too, without overstepping by so much as a hair's breadth the proprieties of diplomacy. But it is not so sure on the other hand that even though our government, ignoring public opinion, should throw its influence on the side of Spain the Cubans themselves would abandon their struggle for liberty and yield again to the Spanish yoke. They would undoubtedly be discouraged, and with reason. The disappointment of their hope in practical American sympathy, the wrecking of their natural expectation that the great republic to which their little island is adjacent would side with freedom rather than tyranny and work within its opportunity for their enfranchisement rather than to give up the battle in sheer despair. But somehow we doubt it. Though few in numbers they have shown themselves valiant in spirit; and it would truly be an anomalous spectacle if at the close of the nineteenth century, when on every hand we are witnessing the spread of republican ideas, there should be enacted almost within the shadow of American institutions, a relapse into medieval political semi-barbarism.

But it is by no means settled, despite the confident tone of the present chief executive at Washington and of his man Friday in the state department who has undertaken to browbeat congress, that the interpolation of the United States will be aimed at the overthrow of Cuban hopes. Mr. Cleveland has not yet converted into a despotism the position he is soon to vacate; nor has Secretary Olney succeeded in convincing the governing masses of his fellow-countrymen that they must not have a voice in American foreign affairs.

Dr. Parkhurst declares that Tom Platt is a more dangerous individual than the devil. Probably that is why the doctor, these days, is concentrating his energies on Platt and giving Satan something of a rest.

The Convention of Judges.

From a practical standpoint only a start was made at the Philadelphia convention of judges toward court reform. The distinguished jurists who assembled on Tuesday did little more than to adjourn. But before they took that step a discussion occurred which disclosed considerable antagonism to the idea of uniform court rules. Inasmuch as uniformity in this particular would have to rest in the main upon the consent of the judges themselves, this antagonism, unless it can be overcome, will doubtless prove fatal to a greatly needed forward step in our judiciary.

Another subject of disagreement was the rules suggested by the Pennsylvania Bar association to secure uniformity in the standard of legal education and admission to the bar. Those rules require that the applicant shall be of good moral character, shall have passed an examination preliminary to registration, which shall be the equivalent of an examination to the freshman class of a college in good standing, and shall have pursued a three years' academic course of legal study with examinations in court. The contention of a number of judges, among them Judge Archbold, that this standard is too high will be received by the majority of laymen with surprise.

Altogether it cannot be held that the first effort to promote uniformity in the Pennsylvania courts has been crowned with success. Yet the effort will go on and will doubtless eventually succeed.

Georgia has now a new anti-trust law which forbids, with stringent penalties, all arrangements, contracts, agreements, trusts or combinations made with a view to lessen or which may tend to lessen free competition in the importation, manufacture or sale of any article or product. This measure starts off bravely. We shall see how it will fare.

Says the Philadelphia Public Ledger:

"The fathers of the republic contemplated that the senate should operate as a check upon the house, but their anticipations have not been always realized. Greater scandal has attached to the election of senators than to that of representatives." If the

Ledger wishes to emphasize its point with a timely illustration, let it tell the truth about the present Wanamaker movement.

Turn on the Light.

The arrest at Harrisburg last night of E. A. Van Valkenburg, the official disburser of the Wanamaker senatorial campaign, will afford an opportunity for a legal investigation of the methods employed by the managers of the new "combine" in state politics.

We are informed that this arrest is merely the precursor of a systematic exposure of one of the most impudent conspiracies to purchase official position in the history of American politics. Regardless of its immediate effect upon the senatorial struggle this exposure, we are assured, will go on, until the last vestige of false pretense shall be stripped clean from off the conspiracy in question.

Turn on the light. Let the band play.

A woman in Detroit, whose property near a railroad was injured by soot and cinders from the passing engines, sued to recover damages, but her case was non-suited because she could not specify which engines had done the mischief. And yet our judges wonder why many people view their rulings in such cases with a feeling akin to distrust.

The Governor's Opportunity.

The suggestion in a Pittsburgh paper that Governor Hastings, being now free from factional entanglements of any kind, can with exceptional propriety hold the next legislature to the party's reform pledges and fearlessly wield the veto power on all schemes and jobs, is to the point. We do not wish to imply that he would under other circumstances do less than this; but the opportunity to present a determined front in behalf of the public welfare is now before him in uncommon distinctness, and all the conditions appear to be unusually favorable for the success of such a policy.

Two years ago when he undertook to do his duty in a matter of vital public moment, his motives were misinterpreted and he was temporarily checked. A fuller understanding of his position then has elicited the indorsement of many who at the time manifested antagonism. Today, although another factional conflict is in progress, he is not a party to it and in him lies the public's one hope that in the clashing of the partisans' might may not be wholly lost of the general public's interests. The people will look to him as they would to a judge on a bench sitting before contending attorneys. While the latter are special pleaders, it is his function above all others to stand for broad and impartial justice, and by doing this he will best subserve both the public's interest and his own.

The position will undoubtedly be one of great delicacy and trial; but just in proportion as its difficulties multiply will credit come for mastering them. Through faults not his own, the first half of the governor's administration has not fulfilled the measure of his own early expectation; but a sturdy performance of duty in the next six months will swing the scales well in the right direction.

It is all figured out in Illinois that Governor John R. Tanner is to be the next president after McKinley. The same condition prevails in Michigan with reference to Governor Pingree; and in New York there are signs of an incipient presidential boom for Governor Frank Black. It strikes us that these calculations, while interesting, are somewhat premature.

A Poor Bargain.

"I have no quarrel with any one," says Mr. Wanamaker, "and have not been a party to any attack made on any individual."

Yet for three months an organized and salaried conspiracy of character defamation has been in progress in Pennsylvania aimed at Mr. Penrose and participated in by men who offered as an excuse for libeling Penrose that they wished to elect Wanamaker. This has been known to Mr. Wanamaker for not less than two months; yet all that he can find time to say in the premises is the ineffective excuse that he has not in person been guilty of circulating scandal. He does not attempt to shield his agents. The evidence against them is unanswerable. Consequently he washes his hands of the whole matter, thinking thus to avoid responsibility. We misjudge the public temper if it will be willing to acquit him so readily.

"I believe," adds Mr. Wanamaker, "that the auditor general's department needs reorganizing because of the large discretion of the auditor general in adjusting corporation taxes. I have reason to believe that many suffering industries can be relieved after the investigations that are likely to be called for soon."

Here we gain a refreshing glimpse at the colored gentleman in the Dolan corporation syndicate's wood-pile. They are gunning for the state treasurer's office so they can have the placing of the state funds; and they are after the auditor-generalship so that they can adjust corporation taxes fit the wishes of the corporation officials. Mr. Wanamaker, in the guilelessness of his strictly commercial disposition, seems to think it is entirely within the province of the corporations to band together for the purpose of escaping taxation, and that those who oppose them are necessarily minions of bossism. Here, again, we think he misjudges public opinion. We challenge him to put to a popular vote the question whether the corporations shall have charge of the levying of taxes on themselves.

The remainder of his interview consists of a rambling attack on the political organization which has brought the Republican majority in Pennsylvania up to the highest mark ever reached in an American state. For this effective force of trained regulars he would substitute a council of corporation magnates, aiming to recoup for campaign outlays by profitable manipulation of the taxing power. It is a

poor bargain, in which the stalwart Republicanism of the commonwealth will not invest.

Vigorous objection is sure to be made in the next legislature to the payment, out of the state funds, of the expenses of the Andrews Lexow committee. The committee was not authorized to expend one dollar; but it has spent nearly \$50,000, and it will seek to get reimbursed by means of a special appropriation. Those who had the fun should pay the piper. It was not a public enterprise.

Fair Play for Cameron.

The Republicans of Pennsylvania have, at different times, been at variance with their senior senator, Mr. Cameron, on many points of party doctrine and procedure; and some of them have expressed their opposition to him in language more forcible than elegant. These differences are now a matter of history and seem Mr. Cameron himself, largely because of them, will quit the state's service. It, therefore, is not a bad time, following so much censure, to say within the limits of truth a few words of merited praise.

Perhaps in this connection we cannot deal more fairly with the subject than to reprint the language of Senator C. L. Magee's Pittsburgh Times—a journal owned by a man who has repeatedly crossed swords with Senator Cameron and who certainly cannot be charged with undue bias in his favor. Referring to the charges which have been placed in circulation in Washington in order to minimize the effect of Mr. Cameron's resolution recognizing the independence of Cuba—namely, that he did not in person prepare the report of the committee which he presented to the senate in support of his resolution; and that he was one of a coterie of stock speculators who employed the Cuban cause for personal profit—the Times says:

No one who knows Senator Cameron will credit any of these charges. Whatever criticisms may be made upon his public career, he has always been conscientious and has always had the courage of his convictions. The very fact that he imperiled his political future by breaking with his party on the silver question proves this. He may, as other members of the senate and congress constantly do, have employed expert assistance in the research necessary to collating the facts stated in the report, but that he allowed any interested parties or paid attorneys of one of the parties to the controversy, to make an argument to the senate and to the country over his shoulders, is a statement that not only has no proof to support it, but is a malicious fling that will neither be credited by his senatorial colleagues nor by his friends in Pennsylvania.

As to the charge that he was actuated in this matter by a desire to reap profits from the stock market, his whole public life contradicts it. In all the years since his name has been before the public as senator and cabinet officer, and with all the opportunities which he has enjoyed to enrich himself by reason of his public position, no one has been able to point to a single act of his that warranted the belief that he was using his position for personal profit; and amidst all of the scandals that have involved the names of so many public men, his name has remained clear. He is probably a much poorer man than if he had remained out of politics, and his case is quite a contrast to that of those men who, without known occupations or visible means of support, grow rich in politics out of salaries that do not equal one-half of their annual expenditures.

To the extent of our knowledge of Senator Cameron we can indorse every word of the foregoing defense, and can add the belief that when history comes to review his public career with impartial pen it will find in his one conspicuous virtue extenuation for many mistakes of judgment. We refer to the fact, as the Times puts it, that he "has always had the courage of his convictions." In politics of the small kind convictions may be an embarrassment; but it is a serious incentive to demagoguism, that bane of free institutions, when men in public station who have convictions are set upon, merely for having them, with misrepresentation, ridicule and abuse, and driven either to take refuge in insincerity or in retirement. Without assuming to sit in judgment upon Mr. Cameron's course, we venture the impersonal remark that sober second thought will deplore much of the procedure leading up to his political taking-off.

THE NEXT CENTURY.

New York Letter, Pittsburgh Times. There has been a good deal of discussion recently as to when the twentieth century begins. But this has turned simply upon a general question: Does a century begin on the year date, when a change occurs on the year date, when a change occurs in the third figure of the date—for example, does the nineteenth century begin on Jan. 1, 1900, the twentieth century on Jan. 1, 1901, and the twentieth century on Jan. 1, 1902? This point has now been practically settled. The centuries cannot rationally be reckoned in this way. Rightly speaking, the nineteenth century closes on the last day of 1900, from which it receives its name. The twentieth century began just after midnight of Dec. 31, 1899, it closes with midnight of Dec. 31, 1900. The twentieth century, therefore, begins on Jan. 1, A. D. 1901. Now, it is pretty well established by the unpleasant class of people who lead in figures and who don't care what long established principles they overturn that, properly speaking, next Friday will be Jan. 1, A. D. 1901. "Is no longer a question as to whether the twentieth century begins in three or in four years from now. The point is that the twentieth century begins next Friday."

How is this worked out?

Simply on the basis, which is now accepted by all careful chronologists, that an error has been made in the date of Christ's birth, so that in what is accepted as A. D. 1, or the first year of our Lord, Christ was, in point of fact, four years old. He was actually born in the year B. C. 5, or, in other words, in the fifth year before Christ, before Himself! That is the apparent mathematical paradox which the accepted chronology would force upon us.

How did the mistake occur? Very easily. The Christian era has its epoch or point of departure determined by the Gregorian rule, viz.: "The years are denominated as years current from the midnight between Dec. 31 and Jan. 1 immediately subsequent to the chronological determination of the event by Dionysius Exiguus." Now, as Dionysius, the obscure author of this chronological scheme, lived in the beginning of the sixth century, there was no exact determination of the epoch, and it cannot therefore be so precisely formulated as other areas of less importance. It is generally agreed that the beginning of the era should have been fixed four years earlier, since Christ was born four years earlier than the date now settled on by the Christian calendar.

The proof lies in two main facts. One is known to have occurred thirty-seven years after he had been declared king by the Romans. Note the declaration took place in A. U. C. 754. The initials A. U. C. stand for anno urbis condito, the year of the building of the city by the Romans, which was the epoch whence the Romans

computed time. Add thirty-seven to 754 and you get A. U. C. 791, which corresponds with B. C. 4. It is obvious that Herod could not have died four years before Christ. Further, we know that there was an eclipse of the moon on March 12, B. C. 4, on which night Herod ordered some Jewish rabbis to be burned for urging their pupils to destroy his golden eagle, and that he was dead before the Passover, which took place on April 12, B. C. 4. Christ, must, therefore, have been born before February, B. C. 4. The 25th of December, B. C. 5, would fulfill all historical requirements.

Our present reckoning then is just four years in error. It might, indeed, seem that it is five—instead of four—because the interval from a given date in B. C. 5 to the same in A. D. 1, is five years. But a little thought will convince you that this was not the case. Christ, it must be once more remembered, was born according to our reckoning, in the concluding days of the last year of the old era, i. e., on Dec. 25, B. C. 4. Now, B. C. 5 is the fourth year before that, so that if we could now revert to the correct year of the nativity, the present year, 1896, would be 1891, i. e., the nineteenth hundredth year after the birth of Christ. At its close nineteenth centuries from that event would be completed, and the twentieth century would commence with next Friday, which would be called Jan. 1, 1901. The error, however, is not one that could easily be remedied. Nor, in view of the inconvenience which it would entail, is it worth remedying. To take just one single instance, think how every reference book, every history, and every individual memory would have to be pulled just four years forward! A world in which America was discovered in 1696, in which the Mayflower landed in 1621, and the Revolution broke out in 1780, would not be the same old world that we know and love.

HIS OPPORTUNITY.

Pittsburgh Chronicle-Telegraph. It is a wise saying of Alexander Dumas that great griefs contain the germs of their own consolation. This may have its application in the case of Governor Hastings. The sudden extinction of his senatorial aspirations, although he bears it with dignified composure, has undoubtedly been a bitter disappointment. He has not only lost his political position, but the support of the appointment bill was a plain requirement of duty imposed by his nomination pledges. His attachment to the senate and his devotion to the cause of the appointment bill was a plain requirement of duty imposed by his nomination pledges.

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But in this present state of political isolation there is this deep consolation. If he has now no faction support he is free of faction obligations. He is an absolute independent man and he is sovereign of the great state of Pennsylvania. With no ulterior purpose to serve nor any personal ends to promote, what a grand field for action he has! He can devote himself with singleness of purpose and untrammelled energies to the service of the people of this commonwealth. He can give a point and efficiency to reform with a measure of opportunity beyond that of any other man. Reform promises are plentiful. He can wield a powerful influence in compelling the practical fulfillment of those promises. If he does not possess an initiative in legislation, nor enter into the faction councils by which the legislative programme is shaped, he is governor of Pennsylvania and wields the veto axe, so that he cannot be ignored. He can confront the faction bosses with their responsibilities in a way which will enable public opinion to act effectively.

The coming session is Governor Hastings' opportunity. His course then will decide whether his administration will be known as a failure or will make itself illustrious.

TOLD BY THE STARS.

Daily Horoscope Drawn by Ainechus The Tribune Astrologer. Astrological cast, 1.38 a. m., for Thursday, Dec. 31, 1896.

A child born on this day will have to hustle if it has much fun in 1897.

The man who can look back at the last 365 days and truthfully say that he is satisfied with the manner in which the time of each has been improved, is almost good enough to associate with Uncle John Wanamaker.

Reports of numerous failures are not always indicative of poor business. A well-conducted failure is often more profitable than years of hard toil.

When used in connection with Cuban war dispatches the word "pacified" undoubtedly means "put to sleep."

The January thaw appears to have been two days ahead of date.

Snowflakes. Good-bye! good-bye! to '96. Its fleeting joys and sorrows—Good-bye! many a wretched fix That we'll forget tomorrow.



There Is Something Lacking

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