The Scranton Tribune

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SCRANTON, JANUARY 19, 1897,

The Rev. Dr. Arthur T. Pierson is so well known, as a preacher and as an advocate of Christian missions that it is needless to urge the citizens of Scranton to go to Elm Park church on Wednesday evening to hear him. Dr. Pierson acquired his world-wide fame when he occupied, for a time, the pulpit of Spurgeon in London. There is no clergyman in this country better posted in the subject of missions, and there is nobody better qualified to give eloquent expression to his thought. The facts stated in another column touching Christian missions are full of interest and of instruction.

The Judge and the Sheriff.

The language of President Judge Archbald in court Saturday in characterizing an alleged abuse of process in the seizure by the sheriff on attachment of the "goods and chattels, lands and tenements, rights and credits, and all books, letters and papers" of the Phoenix Contract company was so se vere as to occasion general remark. A reading of the court's opinion in the premises, without other light, would seemingly throw the whole blame upon the sheriff. But as a matter of fact and record, the sheriff simply executed the writ as it reached him bearing the seal and authority of the court itself. So far, then, from being personally in blame, it is clear that Sheriff Clemons would have become subject to penalty had he declined to act upon the writ in question.

Whether it is just for the judge of a court to administer public censure to a subordinate officer of the court for obeying a duly certified order of that court, failure in which duty would carry with it liability to summary punishment, is now for the public to decide. We believe this is the first time that the bench of Lackawanna county has been moved to deliver such an opinion under such circumstances. If in response to the judicial invitation to the defendants in that attachment to sue the sheriff for damages, action should be brought in the Lackawanna courts, would the president judge be in a position to sit upon the trial with entire fairness to all concerned?

The Philadelphia Ledger is disconsolate because "in the highest councils of the government this great, wealthy and important commonwealth is to have neither counselling voice nor directing mind. If it were the poorest, least populous, most insignificant of all the states, its position in respect to the national administration during the next four years could be no worse than it is certain to be." But is it not possible that the Ledger gives way to grief prematurely?

Our Foreign Trade in 1896.

of the United States for the calendar year 1896 make an interesting study They show an excess of exports over imports of merchandise amounting to \$325,322,184, which is the largest year's excess in our history, being approached only by the excess of 1878, which was \$305,279,590. The record of the past 19 years is indicated below:

			Paxports.	Timports.	1226002
	1896	\$	1,005,878,417	\$680,556,233	\$825,022,134
	1895		824,860,136	801,669,347	23,190,789
	1894	+++++	835,102,248	676,312,941	148,789,597
	1893	*****	876,148,023	776,745,681	99,402,342
	1892	****	938,420,660	840,930,955	97,489,700
	1891	*****	970,509,646	828,320,943	142,188,703
	1890	*****	857,502,548	823,397,726	34,104,522
	1889		827,250,373	770,302,657	50,947,716
ì	1888		691,761,050	725,411,371	*33,650,321
	1887		715,320,956	708,807,311.	6,513,645
ŀ	1886		713,404,021	663,429,189	49,974,832
	1885	222454	688,846,556	587,551,500	101,104,568
	1884	217777	749,366,428	629,201,860	120,104,568
	1883		795,091,806	687,020,123	108,071,624
	1882	*****	707,981,946	752,843,507	15,138,439
	1881	****	833,514,126	670,117,903	163,396,226
	1880	******	889,693,422	096,807,176	192,876,246
	1879	*****	765,130,493	513,780,016	251,350,477
	1878	201000	737,092,073	431,812,483	305,279,594

*Excess of imports. Two causes are assigned for the large outward movement of merchandise during 1896. One is the great scarcity of and parts of Australasia to actual famine. This, coupled with the fullness of most American crops, was undoubtedly the most potent factor as would appear reasonable on the face of things. The second cause is the restored confidence of Europeans after the November elections in the stability of their American investments, which has already reopened former avenues of foreign trade. This appears more closely from the December trade statement, which shows an excess of exports over imports of \$59,275,000 against an average during eight prior Decembers of only about \$30,000,000. The months of October, November and December, 1896, contributed \$181,336,800, or more than one-half, to the year's excess of exports. It was not until last October that the triumph of Protection and sound money became

generally foreseen. The foregoing figures show that it is within the power of the United States to make rapid strides forward in international commerce provided the agitators will give business a chance.

"Senator" Hanna sounds well. Hanna has earned it.

An Unfortunate Tendency.

The ordering by the Supreme court of a new trial in the House embezzlement case brings to the fore an interesting point in law. House became involved in the Moreland irregularities in Pitts- pledges distinct improvement, including burg and on trial in the Allegheny courts was convicted. One of the jur- graphs, sensational headlines and unors accepted in that trial, despite the protest of House's attorneys, was Edi- lusions will not characterize it in the tor Nevin, of the Pittsburg Leader, editorially called for House's conviclargely on Nevin's acceptance as a juror, it being alleged that his presence in the box tended to prejudice the

In passing on the points at issue the

large merited stress on the need of absolute fairness in the jury room. It holds in substance that the commonwealth might better go to the expense of a new trial in the case under review than to the instruction. It is doubtful, they either suggested had knowledge in any other way count be held responsite the instruction. It is doubtful, they either suggested had knowledge in any other way count be held responsite the animal of the problem of the proble open to the slightest suspicion. But the three dissenters-Judges Willard, Wickham and Rice-also take the defensible position that masmuch as Jur-

to the slightest degree instrumental in deflecting the judgment of his eleven colleagues, a re-trial would simply prove a waste of energy. This balancing of the points at issue

leaves room for good arguments on either side. That suspicion should rest on the fairness of any trial would be indeed unfortunate; but to the lay mind, viewing the subject largely from the practical standpoint, it would seem that in the present case the verdict of the lower court might well have been permitted to stand. Its confirmation by the appellate court would have invoived no tangible injustice; whereas the ordering of a new trial not only calls up the question of additional expense but also opens the door to a possible miscarriage of justice.

Apart from the needless reflection which the reversal tends to cast upon all two years or more remote. Juror Nevin's fairness, it has the effect to encourage the raising of technicalities where these are already too abundant, obstructive and expensive. Conceding to the majority of the court the loftiest purposes in decididing as they did, and even granting that that decision is a correct interpretation of the for successful public service? law, we nevertheless believe that the tendency of such decisions is upon the whole hurtful rather than helpful to public justice. The need of the times is for the rigid limiting of reversals to such cases as offer clear proof of pri-

Senator Sherman's denial of the Pittsburg interview was not unexpected. He is undoubtedly for peace, as all sensible men are, but his sympathies are with Cuba and as secretary of state it is hardly to be expected that he will follow the Cleveland example of giving Cuba the small end of every of its second-class mail matter. It is

Object Lessons In Thrift.

The school board of the borough of Homestead, this state, is preparing to introduce in its schools an interesting experiment. Pupils are to be urged by the teacher to save their pennies and once a week a collection of them is to be made. The pupil is to be supplied with a card upon which the teacher will credit each amount as it shall be received. This money will then be placed in the hands of the principal of the schools, who will keep it until the pupil shall have accumulated \$2 to his credit. Then the money is to be entered as a savings account in a bank in the pupil's

This is substantially the system now

in vogue in the model schools of Brookline, Mass. Before deciding to recommend its reproduction in Homestead the superintendent of the Homestead schools, Professor Kendall, made a per sonal study of its workings. He says: There are 2,200 publis in the Brookine schools, and their savings last year amounted to \$4,000. In the Springfield schools the system is much the same, with the exception that stamps are given to the pupils, denoting the amount of their deposit, which are pasted on their cards. When they have \$1 sayed, it is placed in bank, on interest. It is really surprising how eager the pupils are to save their money, after they once get started, and the pennies that they receive, instead of being spent for candy, go to their fund. It is one of the practical lessons of industry and thrift, and a pupil who attends school, say for ten years, will have a nice bank account, with the interest and compound interest, when he leaves, even though only a few pen-

nies are saved every week." There is in many quarters a decided and not altogether unfounded repug nance to what may be called gingerbread experiments in primary educa tion. It is often true that the intro duction of theoretically attractive nov elties in the school room is accomplished at the expense of studies far more essential to the pupil's welfare But we cannot bring ourselves to be foreign breadstuffs, amounting in India | lieve that this savings project is open to this objection. It seems to be as eminently practical as it appears in theory to be salutary. The schools need to broaden the characters as well as the intellects of their pupils. Learning is of little worth unless balanced by morality, economy and frugality. Whatever tends to inculcate among the pupils in our public schools the homely virtues which lie at the base of national not less than individual success deserves from all thoughtful citizens the utmost encouragement.

The Marquette club, of Chicago, will celebrate Lincoln Day (Feb. 12) with a banquet to which Governors Tanner of Illinois, Black of New York, Hastings of Pennsylvania, Bushnell of Ohio, Lowndes of Maryland, Drake of Iowa, Bradley of Kentucky, Atkinson of West Virginia, Pingree of Michigan, Schofield of Wisconsin, Clough of Minnesota, Mount of Indiana, Briggs of North Dakota, Richards of Wyoming, Cooke of New Hampshire, Lord of Oregon, Lippitt of Rhode Island, Grant of Vermont, and Griggs of New Jersey, have been invited. It is doubtful if the remark that passed between the governors of the Carolinas will be germane to this occasion.

In the last issue of the Sunday News Colonel F. J. Fitzsimmons announce his assumption of complete control and an assurance that "indelicate parawarranted and damaging personal atfuture." Colonel Fitzsimmons' word which paper, prior to the trial, had will be accepted and the fraternity will wish for him and for the News under tion. The motion for a re-trial rested his proprietorship the success that his brilliant gifts so well merit.

On April 24 the people of Canada will vote on the question whether they want prohibition or not. Already the friends of prohibition are arranging for a view defamatory articles which may not be prohibition or not. Already the friends Superior court divided four against of prohibition are arranging for a vig-Superior court divided four against of prohibition are arranging for a vig-three. The opinion by Judge Smith orous campaign of popular education vise them with care. There should be

lays merited stress on the need of abso- ists of the United States will partiel-

The South Carolina dispensary law has run afoul of the "original package" law and the original package law or Nevin was under oath to judge the has emerged the victor. The United defendant according to the evidence States Supreme court holds that the adduced in court, and inasmuch as thirsty South Carolinan may import as there is nothing to show that he was much liquor from another state as he chooses, so long as the liquor constitutes an original package. This ruiing will greatly stimulate the jug trade.

Whenever a candidate in Illinois doesn't suit Mr. Kohlsant of Chicago, the latter declares in bold face type that "no friend of McKinley can vote for him." This trick may work once or twice, but it is liable sooner or later to pall on Sucker state Republicanism. which is accustomed to do its own thinking in its own way

A Philadelphia contemporary has prepared a complete list of presidential postoffices in Pennsylvania, with dates of the termination of the commissions of the present Democratic incumbents. The unfortunate thing about this list is that the dates of expiration are nearly

Mr. Platt, according to the Rochester Post-Express, "is lacking in all the attributes of a great senator. He has capacity for politics and for business; but he has no capacity for public speaking." Is oratory, then, the chief qualification

Among the congratulations received by Senator-elect Platt, of New York. we don't see any by Hon, John Sherman. And yet, since Mr. Sherman could forgive General Alger, even Brother Platt may hope.

slighted at Harrisburg were half smart. they would address a petition of relief to Hon. John Wanamaker. In ten years the United States has lost \$240,000,0000 on the transportation

Barre's charitable institutions are

time the postage classification were re-JUSTICE AS TO LIBELS.

From the Philadelphia Times,

The Public Ledger, in an editorial relew of the recommendations of the Penn givania State Editorial association for rerm in our libel laws, takes exception o the provision forbidding criminal prose cution for libel of any person who had no knowledge of the publication, was in no way responsible for it except as an edito or proprietor of a newspaper and who i not guilty of any criminal act or purpos It declares that "this would be a clear nequitable and oppressive enactment s far as those holding subordinate positions in newspaper offices are concerned," and rest upon the chief directing heads of the establishment." The theory of our con-temporary is entirely justifiable in regard to civil actions for damages, where the responsible direction of a newspaper nust be answerable to any one who shall inns, even though they had no knowledg of the publication, but to assume that an person who is entirely guiltless of crim il act or purpose shall be placed in the iminal dock and tried for a crime committed by another and may thus be tried sixty-seven times in Pennsylvania, is one of the lingering relics of the old common iaw brutality established centuries ago, when there was little toleration of newspapers by either government or law. Let us illustrate this as applied to the

Public Ledger itself. A few years ago a most defamatory and certainly flagrantly belous article was published in the col mns of that journal. It was not even privileged communication. It was no intended to serve any public good. It was simply wanton defamation of several citi zens by printing the vaporings of an in mate of the county jail, who was so afterward a convict in the penitentiary. That the responsible direction of the Ledger had not approved of it and that the publication was the result of some accidental failure of the responsible direction of the paper to examine and revise the article, was not doubted by any. How would L. Clarke Davis, or William V. Mc-Kean, or George W. Childs have judged a law if for such a publication in the Ledger of which they had no knowledge whatever until it was given to the public, and that could not have been published at all had it come under their notice, they had found themselves in the criminal dock, when, punished according to the merits of the bel, the penalty could not have been ther than both fine and imprisonment Fortunately for the Ledger, the men thus wantenly defamed by one of those accients that will happen in the most careful directed newspapers, did not need libs its to sustain their reputation, but there are tens of thousands in this city who, under like provocation, would have pressed for both criminal conviction and

Another pointed illustration is given the case of Charles Emory Smith, the chief editor of the Press, who was ar-rested for libel because of a wanton defamation put into that lournal by a reporter and a night editor after all the leading editorial writers had left the office, charging embezziement or defalcation by a prominent officer of one of the leading nancial institutions of the city. publication was made when Mr. Smi was in Boston, and it was even a greater wrong to the Press than it was to the in-stitution and the officer who was thus de-famed; bur, under the laws of the state, Mr. Smith is criminally liable, and could be indicted in every county in Pennsyl-yania, and also be compelled to defend in damage suits in each county of the state, if the plaintiffs or prosecutors choose thus to avail themselves of existing laws. In to other criminal procedure known the law can any person be indicted for a crime when entirely guiltless of either riminal act, knowledge or purpose. The newspaper editor and publisher alone can thus be placed in the criminal dock and tried for an offense of which he may be entirely innocent and of which he may have had no knowledge whatever. Such a law is a blistering stain upon the adminis-tration of justice in this evening of the aineteenth century.

There is certainly need of restraint upon all who write for newspapers by making them responsible for their own crimes, and the subordinate in a newspaper office who, without the orders or knowledge of responsible direction of the paper recklersly defames a citizen should himsel' answerable for his crime. would teach a much higher appreciation of newspaper duties and would certainly aid much in elevating the standard American journalism. As a tule, it not the responsible editor and publisher newspapers who either write, direct suggest reckless defamation of charac-11 comes almost wholly from the r legally bresponsible newspaper writers who are employed by scores on the leading

CORPORATION PROFITS.

Matthew Marshall in the Sun. The reduction of the Delaware and Hudon Canal company's dividend, from 7 per ent, per annum to 5 per cent, per annum, and the consequent heavy fall in the mar ket price of its stock, amply justify the caution displayed by those who are asked to invest their money in this class of en terprises, whether for income or on speculation. The point interesting to the public is, that the company's business is a lic is, that the company's business is a precarious one, and that, therefore, its stock cannot be relied upon to pay uniform dividends. More than this, the moderate amount of its earnings for a long series of years amply refutes the charges made against it and its fellow coal miners, of being greedy and extortionate. For the last twenty years it has never paid over 7 per cent, a year, in many years it has per cent, a year, in many years it has paid, as it is now paying, less, and in some years it has paid nothing at all. The same thing may be said, substantially, of the other great mining, manufacturing financial, and railroad corporations, which have lately been the objects of so much attack by demagogues. It, at times, their profits have been large, they have never sen excessive, and, on the average, the have been very small.

The complaint is very generally current that the revival of business which has been anxiously awaited ever since the crash of 1893, and which was confidently expected to follow the defeat of the silverites at the presidential election last November, still postpones is coming. By some the blame is laid upon the currency, by others upon the uncertainty of rency, by others upon the uncertainty o future tariff legislation, and by other upon the threats of action by congress eading to a foreign war. All these things as well as the continued agitation for free silver coinage, undoubtedly have more o less of the evil tendency ascribed to then less of the evil tendency ascribed to them but, underlying everything else, is a feel ing of insecurity on the part of owners o capital, and their fear that if they inves it in new enterprises they may lose their expected profils, not only by currency tariff, and silver legislation, but by dir

The people who inspire and those wh approve the warfare upon invested capit which has lately become so popular, for get that, while they may be successful a to the investments heretofore made, the will eventually, by their victory, mak further successes of the same kind impos ble. Men who have bought and opene oal mines, or built sugar refineries, curred millions of dollars in gas works an gus pipes, are indeed helpless to resist ag gression. Their capital has been put be gression. Their capital has been put be oust submit to the terms imposed upor them as a condition of being permitted to continue to use it. The future, how-ever, is still within their control. Unless they can be assured that when they inest more capital in a similar way, the will be protected from spoliation, they will keep it where it is. Legislation may compel a man to accept for the use of hi have, when he must either take that o get nothing, but it cannot compel him to do it when the choice is still open to him

SOMETHING OF A FIGHTER.

From the Wilkes-Barre Record. Congressman-elect William Connell, o Lackawanna, is looming up as a candi-date for governor. If he should conclude t adds that "the responsibility for the up make the run, other aspirants might a publication of defamatory matter should well gird themselves up for the fray When William Connell goes into a fight ! goes in to win, and he seldom fails,

STUMBLING ALONG.

ess now for two weeks, and, looking th whole field over, we are inclined to be leve that the country will pull through

HONORED BY SILENCE. from the Times-Herald

A correspondent wants to know how he Princess de Chimay's name should be pronounced. It should not be pronounced

TOLD BY THE STARS.

Daily Horoscope Drawn by Ajacchu The Tribune Astrologer. Astrolabe cast: 3.31 a. m., for Tuesday Jan. 19, 1897.

(±) mili A child born on this day will notice that he word "patroness" is beginning to be regarded with the aversion that is accorded the title "professor." In imploring the Democrats to "get to

gether," the Free Press evidently means mischief. The local Democrats are more peaceful any time when separated. The recent elevation of Tom Platt is another instance of the office seeking the man with the persistence of a bill col-

The wise reporter seldom squeals an acknowledgement when "scooped" by X-rays often reveal many things not

Breakfast Chat. He-Why does Sarah's beau at night

esemble an up-to-date song? She-I give it up. Explain. He-Because he's the latest thing out.

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