the Scranton tribune

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We advise our readers to read the speech of Thomas C. Platt which we print on another page. It is not pretentious and it probably was not de-Byered with many of the traditional graces of oratory, but we challenge anybody to say after reading it that it is the production of an inferior mind or of one unfitted to be of real use in the senate of the United States.

For Justice to Publishers.

It is the belief of close observers that the addresses made at Harrisburg Tuesday night by Colonel McClure and Charles Emory Smith have materially strengthened the probability that the present legislature will revise the libel law of Pennsylvania in the interest of public justice. Both of these eminent journalists, speaking, as they have a right to, for the press of the entire state, made emphatic disclaimer of any wish to solicit for the publishing interests favoritism from the law or of any inclination to smooth the pathway of journalists who abuse their office; but they also made eloquent demands for the placing of the newspaper business on a footing of legal equality with other interests.

That it is not now on such a footing is apparent to any one who has made the slightest study of the subject. For example, a newspaper man is the only citizen of Pennsylvania who can be indicted, time after time, in each of the sixty-seven countles of the state, for after being punished for a crime in criminal proceedings, can again be punished in a civil action by the award of punitive damages. He is the only citizen who can be held by the law to have through the fault of a subordinate. committed without his knowledge. It would be as sensible to arrest General an engineer of the Delaware, Lackashould, in disobedience of orders, run permits an injurious publication.

who make a practice of stirring up sharply for their own welfare. speculative libel litigation in hope of being bought off may, in the court's which Senator Magee proposes to try discretion, be foiled by requirement of to protect Traction interests against advance security for costs. This is not legal blood-letting are not in our posunfair. It will work to no honest man's session and therefore we can discuss the harm.

In conclusion, we cannot better do thorough indorsement, the words of Charles Emory Smith: "No honorable journalist seeks to remove any just restraints upon reckless, wanton and licentious journalism. We do not seek to diminish just protection to private character against public assault. We do not want to reduce the fullest measure of responsibility for defamatory publications. We only ask for fair and reasonable protection against oppressive discriminations which do not apply to any other class, and against speculative harpies who undertake to prey upon journalism. Nor do we ask for anything new or exceptional or untried. The essential provisions of the proposed reform law have already been embodied in the statutes of Minnesota, Indiana, Illinois, Ohio and many other states. We ask only what has been enacted in these states without objection, because its essential justice was universally recognized."

The Philadelphia Press announces a net gain in both circulation and advertising, in 1896, over 1895, of about 15 per cent. This is notable from a pub-He as well as a private standpoint, for it shows that it is possible to secure even in a year of depression, growing public patronage for an increasingly good newspaper without descending to filth or vulgar sensationalism. Th success of a paper like the Press is ; public victory.

The Lodge Bill as Amended.

The Lodge immigration bill as it passed the senate provided simply for the exclusion from the United States of all aliens, save natives of Cuba during the life of the rebellion, who cannot read five lines of the Constitution in one language. The bill as it has emerged from conference retains this educational test, but provides further that it shall be "unlawful for any male alien, who has not in good faith made his declaration before the proper court of record of his intention to become a citizen of the United States, to be employed on any public works of the United States or to come regularly or habitually into the United States by land or water for the purpose of engaging in any mechanical trade or manual labor, for wages or salary, returning from time to time to a foreign coun-

The purpose of this additional clause is to force the several thousand Canadians who live near the border and who now earn money in the United States and spend it in Canada, either to become American citizens or to find employment in their own country. We are not wholly convinced of its wisdom. Taking a narrow view of the subject it is certainly unfair that men who get their livelihood in one country should spend their earnings in another. But this is not much worse than the practice of many naturalized Americans who forward their savings to the old country, and we do not hear any demand for legislation to stop that.

On the same principle, a demand might be made by the workmen of Scranton for legislation to prevent men who live.

say, in Dunmore, from earning wages in Scranton. That method of protecting Scranton labor might prove effective. but it would probably delay instead of hasten the annexation of Dunmore. If there are 20,000 deaths among children the purpose of congress be to convey to the great mass of Canadians an intimation that their friendship is not wanted, the Lodge bill should pass in its amended form. If American labor wishes notice to be given that it is afraid of Canadian competition, this measure should become a law. But If the whole question be viewed from the higher standpoint that Canada will one day be a part of this republic, the advisability of erecting a legal wall to exclude Canadian individuals as well as Canadian products will appear less clear. It is proper enough to put a duty on Canadian goods, because we do that on all dutiable imports regardless of their source and there is consequently no discrimination; but the foregoing amendment is clearly not a general rule but a special blow at Canada; and the question is, Is it wise?

Senator Penrose's resignation as a member of the state senate, which was handed in yesterday, does away with the necessity for holding a special election of his successor, which would have Involved considerable expense. His position in the state senate can now be filled at the regular February election It is to be hoped that this will still the unwarranted chatter which has prevailed on the assumption that he would try to fill two senatorships at once.

To Curb Legal Speculation.

One of the measures to be advocated at Harrisburg this session by Senator Magee, in behalf of the Traction companies of Pennsylvania, will have for its purpose the limiting of speculative suits against such companies for damages. Suits of this character are grow ing in numbers throughout the commonwealth with such rapidity as to constitute a serious menace to taxpay ers, upon whom in nearly every instance the costs finally fall. The merest glance one offense. He is the only citizen who, at the dockets of our local courts will disclose that a large percentage of the litigation in damages coming before them arises from this source, and it common report may be believed, is in some instances directly incited by attorcommitted a crime by proxy; that is, neys willing to take chances on squeezing fees out of the defendants.

Much as we object on principle to the exactions and extortions often practiced Manager Hallstead for murder because by the managements of Traction interests and frequently as their methods o wanna and Western Railroad company influencing legislation are censurable, it is only fair to say that as they ill-trea ever and kill a man as to arrest for the public, so a large part of the public criminal libel an editor absent from has a habit of ill-treating them. By too the scene where a negligent subordinate many persons a corporation, be it good, bad or indifferent, is regarded as fair What publishers want is that they prey, to be cheated, cajoled or persecutmay be subject to not more than one ed at will. When we consider in fairness trial for an alleged crime, and to not how constantly the managers of these more than one recovery in any case for public enterprises have to be on the dedamages, and then only for actual fensive against vicious attacks damage proved; that honest effort to from "strikers" of every tpye and right an unintentional wrong may have description, it perhaps is as much weight in their favor; that indictment to be wondered at that they ever for criminal libel shall follow only in try to meet the public half way as case of personal guilt; and that rogues it is that in instances they look ou

The exact details of the bill with subject only in general terms. It would seem, however, that a fair way would this subject justice than to quote, with be to make it optional with the court whether plaintiffs in damage suits should not file an advance guarantee that the costs, in event of the failure of their case, will not devolve upon the county. This is the safeguard sought by publishers against speculative libel suits, and what is fair for one class of investments would seem to be equally equitable in application to another class standing in similar peril before the present law.

> The vacancy in the editorship of the St. Louis Globe -- Democrat, created by the death of Joseph B McCullagh, has been filled by the promotion of Mr. Mc-Cullagh's former chief assistant, Captain Henry King. This is as "Mack" himself would have it.

Lessons from Illinois.

According to the Chicago Times-Herald, politics is conducted on a very practical basis in some portions of II inois. It asserts that the candidacy first of Madden and then of Lorimer for the senatorship finally won by Mason had behind it a fully prepared scheme to "set up a brokerage office in Chicago for the disposal of council franchises legislative enactments and even acts of congress." That journal adds:

If the scheme had not miscarried th strongest, most oppressive and most corupt machine in the political history of the machine would have had its center is "Doe" Jamleson's office in Chicago, would be a general store for the bar and sale of political merchandise. No a franchise could go through the council, not a contract through the county board, without the consent of the coterie of aders. In Springfield the "lobby" would dispensed with, and corporations would "do business at the Chicago office," the "boys" in the legislature taking the wages and saying nothing. But the rowning infamy was to be the holding u f great national or party measures i the United States senate and pracing the sale to the highest bidder in cash o

We have no knowledge as to the truth of these charges, but assume that a pa per of the Times-Herald's standing. and representing in its proprietor so well-equipped a fighter as Mr. Kohlsaat, would not make them, after its battle had ended victoriously, without ample supporting evidence. The fact that the Chicago "machine" was defeated shows that when public opinion finds just cause for complaint, it generally rises supreme. But it also shows that a revolt from "machine" methods must be genuine, and based on real

merit, to succeed. If the opponents of Madden and Lormer in Illinois had selected as their andidate a man guilty of all the vices of either, the chances are Madden or Lorimer would today be senator instead of Mason, and the brokerage office would already have been "set up."

School sanitation was one of the subfects liberally discussed at the recent state convention of health authorities.

sultable text book on practical hygiene. Every year in this state, according to one speaker-Dr. Groff, of Lewisburgwhich might be prevented if the right kind of instruction as to health were imparted in the schools. These figures if correct, are manifestly important. It is to be hoped that the line of inquiry will be pursued to a practical and helpful conclusion.

"Lady" Scott, the notorious English woman who was lately sentenced to imprisonment for slandering her son-inlaw, has been allowed to occupy two finely furnished rooms in the jaflor's private apartments, and to entertain just as if she were in her own home. And yet grave members of parliament wonder why the spirit of anarchism

Whether Lyman J. Gage, of Chicago, shall be called to the secretaryship of the treasury or not, he will have abundant reason to feel grateful for the remarkable unanimity and cordiality with which the representative citizens of Chicago and the northwest have indorsed his candidacy. Such a magnificent and widespread indorsement could never be inspired by an unworthy man.

According to the Washington Post, the nation is sick over the mere thought" of Hanna succeeding Sherman in the senate. We must confess that the symptoms of its Illness had completely escaped us. The public in these parts thinks Hanna just the man for the place. That Nicaragua should have grown

lators who are back of the present Nicaragua canal scheme is not strange; the strange thing is that the United States senate should bear with them and their absurd demands so patiently.

Senator Morgan is quoted as having said in effect that if the Nicaragua canal bill is licked he will retaliate by defeating the arbitration treaty. On these terms, the public will prepare to mourn

SOME NEW BOOKS.

as not only been a prominent figure the scenes which he pictures but has furthermore devoted much time and noney to the quest of original information. His biographies of prominent citi zens in the oil region would alone constitute an invaluable work, written as the are in the chatty, breezy style which makes biography, while true in fact, as interesting as fiction. But these are only a part of the task to which Mr. McLauhas addressed himself. Stowed away the 400 large pages of this attractive book, annust abounding portraits and il-lustrations in well-executed half tone, is mass of information, anecdotes and indents such as could not elsewhere be thing merely to have had the patience to gather together Mr. McLaurin's accumulation of facts; but it is true genius to able, as he has been, to present these is book a strong rival against the most bsorbing novel. Royal octave, cioth, pp. 6; price \$2; published by the author at

Harrisburg, Pa.1 Receipt is acknowledged from John Murphy & Co., publishers, of Baltimore, of the latest literary work of Cardinal Gib-bons, entitled "The Ambassador of Christ." Accompanying it is a circular letter from the author explaining that its chief purpose is "to demonstrate the dig. nity and responsibility of the Christian ministry," The thirty-one chapters of the ook are addressed in admonition to the atholic clergy, urging personal humility bedlence, charity and chastity, together with other virtues and graces such as befit those who essay the functions of the priesthood, and abounding in Scriptura quotation, in fortification of the precepts laid down. These chapters are of value o those immediately addressed in them out the book's preface takes on a large ope. In it the cardinal speaks hopefully of the "inviting field for missionary in bor" offered in the United States; take a philosophic view of the "periodical whirlwinds of bigotry that sweep over the land" and "soon subside, like the upheavals of nature, after spending their force," and holds that even these are no an unmixed evil since they 'purify the moral atmosphere; clear the spiritual skies and give observant men a better inight into the uncreated world," The car inal is equally at ease because of the et, he prefers an open foe to a lakewarn end, because when the foe is converted is worth something.

"Americans," says he, "are fundamen ally a regious people. They who char eterize them as a nation so absorbed is rade and commerce, in agriculture an odities, as to give scarcely a thought t ternal truths, judge them not correctly people having little regard for Christanity would not spend millions annuall n the erction of churches and in the male enance of home and foreign missio Americans are known to do. V wenty years after the civil war, twenty we millions of deliars were contributed by Northern Protestants for endowments f educational institutions in behalf of he negroes of the south, all these insittions being strictly religious. In 1895 he Presbyterians spent \$927,000 for Ameri an home missions, besides vast sums fo reign missions. According to a statement apparently authorized, the five leading de nominations in the United States centr ite annually \$55,000,000 for the support their respective churches and miss And these contributions are not exacted is a compulsory tax, but are bestowed a voluntary offerings.

were disbanded they laid down their arms, and quietly resumed the civic pursuits of life, submitting without constraint to the constitutional laws of the country. They eloquently disproved the ominous predictions uttered abroad that a soldiery sub-

the mastery. A stranger observing the passions and animosities that are aroused, the vehement denunciations poured out the vehement denunciations poured out by the contending forces, and the dire disasters predicted by each side should the other triumph, would imag-ine that we were on the eve of a bloody revolution. But he would soon discover that the conflict did not occasion the loss of a single life. It was a bloodless revo-lution, affected not by builds, but by hallots, Euch side spends colorant for-

lation, affected not by bullets, but by ballots. Each side spends colossal fortunes, and impresses into its service the best talent of the nation in the hope of securing the covered prize. The highest office in the gift of the people, the enormous patronage attached to it, the exultation of victory, the glory of presiding over the destines of the country, are all invoived in the issue. And yet on the morning after the election, the defeated norning after the election, the defeated sarty bows to the will of the majority. 'A people that yield so ready and loya dedience to human laws, will not seller face against divine reveiation when ts imperious claims are clearly and co-cently set before them."

There has in recent years been much writing up and down of Virginia and Virginians, both in history and fiction; so much so, indeed, that to claim our attention new effort in this field must offer unquestionable credentials of merit. Such credentials are supplied by Julia Magruder, and the reader can take up the eight stories Herbert S, Stone & Co., of Chicago, publish under the title, "Miss Ayr of Virginia," secure in the knowledge that they will teward perusai, Miss Ayr esthey will reward perusal. Miss Ayr especially is a delightful young lady to meet, even in the pages of fiction; and while Mrs. Leith, the Creole girl who loves her rogue of a husband so that to please and free him she secures a divorce, al-though it breaks her heart, is a little in-credible to the cold Northern mind, we dure say there are such women. And so we could go through the list of stories pointing out in each one characters that appeal to us by their human qualities—in the portrayal of which Miss Magruder surely succeeds beyond the ordinary. But we prefer to let the reader have the pleasure of organic their surely succeeds beyond the ordinary. of forming their acquaintance at first tired of being trifled with by the specushould be said concerning the design on its over-a delirium in white, black and slate olor that grows on one despite first imprescions, like the taste for olives,

Mr. George Paston is one of those too

numerous modern authors who, lacking, it would seem, the ability or the patience to achieve success along the rocky pathway of real merit, consider it legitimate to eatch the public eye by spitting in the public's face. "The Career of Candida, Mr. Paston's last and worst (which I done by the Appletons in paper covers to 50 cents) is simply a polite slapping of de-cent manhood and womanhood with the dirty glove of pessimism, and all to no earthly purpose unless to give Mr. Pastor a market. It is the story of two young There probably is no other industry save the mining of gold or diamonds which possesses as dramatic a history as that of the petroleum industry; and it probably is also true that no other industry is so little understood, even by those who live aimost within sight of the oil derricks or within range of the peculiar and pungent odor of the outflows from the oil wells. We suspect that if these statements be doubted by anybody, doubt will be removed by a queer coincidence are induced to imagine by anybody, doubt will be removed by a queer coincidence are induced to imagine perusal of "Sketches in Crude Oil," a that they really were mated properly in that they really were mated properly in the beginning, and thereupon proceed to the property of and incidents of the development of petro-leum in all parts of the globe," but which is really a most comprehensive and fas-cinating story of the petroleum industry and the men who have made it. The dume gives evidence that its author greater the sales. There is shrewd meth od in this madness.

STATE LEGISLATIVE TOPICS.

Representative Reynolds, it is under stood, has strong assurance of support fo his bill appropriating \$15,000 for the Car-bondale hospital.

Says the Harrisburg correspondent of the Philadelphia Press; "Congressman Connell, of Scranton, who was in the city Tuesday night, was greeted on all sides as 'Governor' Connell.'

At the recent annual meeting in Harris ourg of the Associated Health authorities of the state, favorable comment was made y Dr. Lee and others on the compr siveness of the reports received from Lackawanna county.

Senator Kennedy, of Allegheny, on Tuesday introduced, by request, a novel bill forbidding the publication of the names of the persons charged with the commission of crimes until duly convicted. The act makes it unlawful and a mis demeanor for any newspaper, daily o veckiy, or any other publication, to pul lish the name of any person charged with an offense until conviction follows, under enalty of a fine of not less than \$399 no more than \$1,000. If the provisions of this bill were to become a law it would be ille ral to publish the name of a man charge with murder or other similar serious of fenses until he had been tried and con victed for the same. Senator loes not expect the bill to pass. Senator Kennedy

Representative Connell's plumbers' rep stration bill would require the mayor very city to appoint an examining board f five members, including two master dumbers, two fourneymen, and the chie inspector of plumbing and drainage in the city. The first four would serve two years, and the fifth throughout his term. rs of ten years' experience, and res dents of the state for three years, and would give bonds for \$1,000 each, at though getting only the nominal pay 300 n year to cover car fare, etc. The board would make regulations for plumb ng, and grant certificates to competer plicants for registration upon payme fets, % for a master plumber applic n and \$1 for a journeyman. The list eligibles would be sent to select coun Three-year apprentices could b mong the applicants

A bill of interest to all blevelers has been introduced by Representative Hosack, of Allegheny county. It provides that cour commissioners may, with the approva any public road to be improved, or be out, open and improve roads suitable found for the exclusive use of bicycles, to cles and other vehicles with pneuma or soft rubber tires. The maintenance such roads or bicycle paths at the side roads would devolve upon the count; There is a penalty of \$5 for injuring the road or endangering the tires, and o enders would not be relieved from crim al prosecution. The commissioners wou nake regulations as to speed, lamps, e For necessary damages to or taking cland for the bicycle improvements a mount could be expended not exceeding lo per cent, of the money in the commi-sioners' disposal, and maintenance woul be limited to 10 per cent, of the future levy

There is not likely, it is said, to be an: "The American people possess, also, in investigation of the state trensurer's of-a marked degree, the natural virtues that fice by the present legislature. The de-tre the indispensable basis of supernatural feat of the Mitchell resolution last week are the indispensable basis of supernatural life. They are gifted with a high order of intelligence; they are self-polsed and deliberate; they are of industrious and temperate habits; they are frank many, and ingeneous; They have a deep sense of justice and fair play; they are brave and generous; and they usually have the courage of their couvictions. They are withal, a law-abiding people. At the close of the civil war, when hundreds of thousands of Federal and Confederate troops were disbanded they laid down their arms. to suspend the rules, which they have hope of securing. An effort will now i made to secure the passage of a bill re-quiring backs and banking institutions : pay interest upon state deposits. It is said that if such abill passes a movement will A point brought out in one of the papers on this subject was that while the percentage of near-sightedness among school children is only 7 when they empty their acts of violence and aedition; and that, after having once acquired a taste for blood, they would still thirst for they graduate from the colleges or universities. Another weak point to which

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leposits assuming the responsibility by becoming his bondsmen.

An important measure, of interest very shopworker in the commonwealth, has been introduced by Senator Mitchell, of Jefferson. The bill is entitled, "An ac to regulate the employment and provide for the health and safety of men, wo men and children in the manufacturing establishments, mercantile industries, laundries, renovating works and printing offices, and to provide for the appointment of inspectors, office clerks and others and enforce the same." Its salient features provide that no child under 13 years of age shall be employed in any factory in the stae. Where children are employed, a register shall be kept, and where the employe is under 16 years of age, an affidavit by parents or guardian setting forth this fact must be kept on the. It is also made unlawfur to employ their own use. any minor who cannot read or write in the English language, unless he presents a certificate of having attended the pre-ceding year an evening or day school for a period of sixteen weeks. It is also proded that such employer shall keep post-d in a conspicuous place, where such help s employed, a printed notice stating the number of hours of work required per day, and in every room where children are emdoyed, a list of their names and ages. In every manufacturing, mechanical or mer-cantile industry, laundry, workshop, renovating works or printing office, seats shall be provided for women and girls. Trap or automatic doors shall be provided o every elevator hole or shaft, also auto-natic shifters for the purpose of throw ng on or off pulleys or belts, and in case of accident, the superintendent must re-out in writing to the factory inspector ull particulars within twenty-four hours after accidents occur. Suitable and proper wash and toilet rooms shall be provided where females are employed. Such rooms shall be properly screened and ventilated Forty-five minutes is made the minimum for the noonday meal. Where shor mealtime is necessary, a permit from factory inspector shall be issued. In an establishment where bollers are used, the factory inspector shal lhave the right o entry at any time, for the purpose of in-specting the same, and where bollers are ound to be in a dangerous condition, their use shall immediately cease and they shall be replaced with new ones.

THE PROBABILITY.

"Does your wife worry about burglars? "Not much," answered Mr. Meekton.
"I wonder what she'd say it she found ne in the house?' "I don't know. But I have an idea that she'd ask him how he dared come in the house without wiping his shoes on the mat."-Washington Star.

LET US HOPE NOT. From the Washington Post.

The coming of Hon, "Billy" Masor means the establishment of a vaudeville onnex to the United States senate.

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