Publishing Company.

FRANK S. GRAY CO.

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It is preposterous to assume that it is impossible for President-elect Mc-Kinley to find in the commonwealth of Pennsylvania an acceptable Republican of cabinet size.

Strengthen the Bribery Laws.

The Van Valkenberg brbery case offers convincing necessity for the enactment by the present legislature of der direction of the Pennsylvania Civil pose of reaching just such expenditures of money as are known to have been made during the recent scnatorial campaign. It defines as bribery the offer, positive or indefinite, of money. of public office, of nomination, of political support, or the loan of money or anything else, or the giving of any the problem. agreement, either before or after election, and either for voting or refraining to vote, and covers the advances of a candidate's friends as well as of the candidate himself. It also makes bribe-giving a worse offense than such a shrinkage. bribe-receiving and offers liberal inducement for the exposure of men who make a business of corrupting the

In the case of Van Valkenberg, who is under indictment in the Schuyikill county courts, it is questionable under the present law if a conviction can be secured. The statute defining bribery and providing penalties is as fol-

"If any person shall, directly or indirect ly, or by means of or through any artful and dishonest device whatever, give or effer to give any money, goods or other present or reward, or give or make any promise, contract or agreement, for the payment, delivery or alienation of any money, or other bribe, in order to obtain or influence the vote * * of any member of the general assembly in any bill, action. * * * matter or thing whatsoever depending, or which shall depend be-fore him or them, such person shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and on convic tion be sentenced to pay a fine not ex-ceeding \$500, and to undergo an imprison ment by separate or solitary confinement at labor not exceeding one year. And the member of assembly, * * * who shall the names of their candidates for deleaccept or receive, or agree to accept or receive such bribe, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction to pay a line not exceeding \$1,000, and undergo an imprisonment by separate or solitary coninement at labor not exceeding five

The attorneys of Van Valkenberg lave filed at Pottsville a demurrer to the indictment for alleged attempt to bribe Webster C. Welss on the grounds that no indictable offense is set forth; that the Schuylkill county court has no furisdiction: that Weiss was not then a member of the new legislature, and so, as such, could not be bribed; and that the matters alleged are insufficient to hold the defendant for trial. If this demurrer shall be sustained, it will be equivalent to a judicial admission that laws today offer practically scope for the operations of political financiers of the Van Valkenberg type, so long as the latter conduct their negotiations prior to the qualification of members of the legislature, and screen them under the pretence that money thus placed is for the payment of legitimate campaign expenses, when, as a matter of fact, It is bribery in a most insidious form.

It has been decided in an English court that the disembowelling book review must go. In other words, a review must not convey to readers an accurate idea of what the book is. This may be a victory for publishers, but it is clearly a defeat for the public.

As to Expert Testimony.

As was to have been expected, the Johnston murder trial at New Bloomfield has started renewed discussion of the question whether it is desirable in cases involving delicate problems of the mental condition of prisoners to admit expert medical testimony, and if so, under what circumstances. One long contribution to the endless literature on this subject is made in a letter to the Washington Post by R. W. Shufeldt, in the course of which he affirms that not only should expert testimony be eagerly welcomed in all such cases, but that medicine should be far more prominently represented in the curricula of our schools of law than at present, while in all important trials, involving testimony of this nature, the judge should be a graduate of both the legal and the medical schools, and 50 per cent, of the jurymen should have sufficient medical training to enable them to comprehend at least the discus-

sion of an ordinary medical question. "It is the exception," remarks this candid writer, "to meet a member of the bench who has even received any medical education whatever, or who can intelligently discuss such matters. And, as for jurymen, they are usually selected from a class that stand in absolute ignorance of everything in any way technical with either legal or medical knowledge." With reference to the criticism, often heard, that experts are worthless as witnesses because they are so prone to disagree and thus to befog the minds of the jurors, Mr. Shufeldt

When one comes to associate with physicians and surgeons of repute and high professional education, it soon becomes apparent that their differences of opinion in medical matters are really very slight. Often they are at variance in special points of practice, but personal experiences guide here, and such differences, even by medical men, are considered to be of but little moment. In court, however, it but little moment. In court, however, it is out of these very trivial points that unscrupulous attorneys endeavor to make capital or confuse evidence. Then the characteristics of medical witnesses themselves vary, some possess the ability to give their testimony in a clear and impressive manner, often sided by the professional training and an able comprehension of the case. In others the very reverse of all this obtains. This opens another avenue for uncertainties and contradictions, which, out of court, would be settled by the opinions of the more capable and best informed medical men prevailing—while in court it simply acts as a barrier to the comprehension of the judge and to the proper dispensation of

justice. Under these circumstances, and n cases where much expert medical testi-nony is to be taken, it would not be al-ogether a had live to have the court appoint a proper physician to act in the trial which incites their flith, are in real fact their accomplices in crime. It is value of the medical evidence presented, and to digest it in such a manner that it can at once be comprehended and used by him.

With the suggestion that in a trial such as the Johnston trial one-half of If expert testimony cannot be so simigent laymen, it should have no weight with the jury, but should be considthe law in the premises or as recommending the prisoner to elemency. But It might not be a bad plan to put to experiment the last suggestion quoted above-that of an advisory expert to ald the judge in weighing the professional testimony. A more important improvement than this, however, would the corrupt practices act recently sum- be that lately tried, we believe, in IImarized in this column. That act, It lineis, wherein the court is empowered will be remembered, was drafted un- to employ expert witnesses at state expense to give evidence not necessarily Service Reform association for the pur- with knowledge of the special case on trial, but in response to hypothetical questions-in other words, to put their professional skill at the command, not of prosecutor or defendant, as such, in return for fees from one or the other side, but to put it to the aid of justice This seems to us the proper solution of

It is roughly estimated that the strict enforcement of a literacy test would reduce our annual immigration one-half. The public can well stand

Primary Elections Reform.

Three bills for the regulation of primary elections have been drafted by the Civic Federation of Chicago, for presentation before the Illinois legislature. They are of interest in view of the fact that the same subject is under more or less serious consideration in Pennsylvania.

The main bill permits primaries to be held under the Australian ballot system upon petition to court of the regular organization of any party, or of two per cent, of the voters participating in the last general election. The primary elections of all political parties or organizations are to be held at the same time, in the same election districts, at the same polling places and under the same election officers and laws as if the election were a general election. The expense is to be borne by the county. Each party is to have gates. A supplementary bill provides that at registration a column shall be provided in which the registration officlals may write the name of the party at whose primaries the candidate for registration says he desires to vote. He need not declare any party affiliation, but unless he shall do so he cannot vote at a primary election. Another supplementary bill provides that in supplementary bill provides that in STATE (for the scheme is to be made optional with the counties) no party ticket shall LEGISLATIVE be entered on an official ballot at pub-He expense unless it shall have been $[{
m TOPICS}]$ nominated through primaries held un-

der this system. The foregoing is an imperfect abstract of the main features of bills having more than 20,000 words in the aggregate. It will be understood, of ourse, that ample provision is made for advertising the primaries, supplying the necessary paraphernalia and preserv ing the ballets and records after the primaries shall have ended. The essential feature of the whole plan is that it puts primaries on an equal footing with general elections, so far as legal restrictions and safeguards are concerned that it prevents cheating or repeating xcept through connivance of election officials representing both parties, and that it renders it possible for primaries o be made both an honest and a general expression of the party will. We are more favorably impressed with this measure than with any similar panacea that we have yet examined.

Quay, Foraker and some others have aiready formed an offensive and defensive alliance in the senate, as a precaution against unfair treatment by Me-Kinley. They probably would do this if forced to, in which event they could not be blamed; but they have done no such thing as yet, for the simple reason that it is not and will not be nec

Accomplices in Crime.

That is a strong but a just indictnent which President Gerry, of the Soety for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, brings in his annual address against sensational journalism as illustrated by certain notorious city dailes of the time. After calling attention to the rapid increase which is taking place in New York city in the percentage of child criminals, he says:

Many of these children are bright, in-elligent, and precedious; they are ready to eize upon whatever may be placed in the way in the form of literature and to shar their own actions accordingly. They so earn to read, and then comes the first cause of their training in vice—what may well be called victous journalism. Larid stories of crime, illustrated by vivid pic-tures representing criminals in daring and attractive attitudes; descriptions of crimnals arrested for gross immoralities with he like pletorial illustrations; narratives of these, and especially of children charged with crime, where all the details are elaborated with the greatest care, with heir pictures often of a salacious charac er, make a deep-scated and deep-roote mpression. Any one conversing with chi ren held for crime may soon learn when he suggestions of crime are derived. The are only too ready to talk on the subject and frequently to compare their exploits with those chronicled in these newsca-pers. I know of no more effectual method of diverting the young from the paths of virtue and common honesty than by coninually saturating their minds with pruri ent ideas, victous stories, and tales corime, in which the criminal is picture is a hero, and the marrative provokes it quiry from curiosity. If the able men of influence and experience who conduct our great journals were to unite to suppress this "vicious journalism," dangerous as it is to the future of the community, they would do more to stifle juvenile crime and improve the habits and morals of the future citizens of this great republic that

any other power which could be invoked to stay the evil. Every word in this pregnant quotation is as true as gospel. The journals which thus vitiate and debauch society are organized conspiracies of crime, that ought, if it were possible, to be the judge and to the proper dispensation of I taken by main force and dumped into amine barbers, and if they have the requi-

the nearest sewer. But they cannot do damage without readers, and those who buy them, who supply the incent-

The Tribune acknowledges with interest receipt of Numbers 1 and 2 of the jury be physicians we do not agree. Impressions, a monthly journal published by the students of the Scranton plified in language as to come within High school, under the following orhe comprehension of reasonably intel- ganization: P. E. Kilculien, '97, editorin-chief; Joseph A. Wagner, '96, Leona Gregory, '97, Walter Schanz, '98, Grace ered solely by the judge as affecting A. Balley, '99, C. George Spoerl, '99, and W. D. Sweet, 1999, associate editors; C. A. Gilmore, '99, business manager; Robert Gardner, '99, and Leon Levy, '99, advertising managers, and Walter P. Stevens, 1900, secretary of circulation, Impressions will do much to inspire interest in school work, give form to literary ideas, make practical the theories acquired during the study of the English language and its literature, and introduce its editors and contributors to some of the serious lessons of life outside the school room. We wish its makers success,

> Since the fact became pinin to the orld at large that the American peole proposed to pay their just debts Iollar for dollar, in the best money going, there has been a marked veering in the tide of gold. Although in 1895 we exported \$72,066,287, the records show that in the year just ended the receipts of gold from Europe exceeded our exports by \$46,023,594. Our gold reserve is now larger than it has been for years, and if the government were on a self-sustaining revenue basis, we should undoubtedly witness a revival of prosperity unequalled since 1890. A new tariff bill is an Imperative neces-

> The departure from this city, in reponse to a call from South Bethiehem. of Rev. Edwin Lunn Miller, the present paster of Trinity Lutheran church, will e regretted by all who have had the oleasure of Rev. Mr. Miller's acquaintance or who have had opportunity to understand how much he has done, while a resident of Scranton, to forward religious interests and to build up the Trinity congregation. The presence in any community of a paster like Mr. Miller is a distinct accession to every rood influence; and though we regret to have him subtracted from us, we recognize that our loss will be South Bethlehem's important gain.

Senator Squire, of Washington, who as beaten for re-election, says he was offered twenty-four legislative votes for \$6,000. The gold standard has evidently wrought a startling depreciation in the value of votes out west.

It begins to look as if the Hon. Gas Addicks, of Delaware, invested his senatorial campaign fund in a political

Senator Pavey, of New York, has inout of place at Harrisburg also. It is designed to remedy certain evils in party management that have been most prolific ources of factional strife. Whenever an wherever there have been contests nominations for supremacy in local pa ontrol the defeated side has uniform cried "fraud." The charge publicly made and plausibly maintained has cast public iscredit at one time or another on even olitical party. The plain truth is th very party and every faction has ess been guilty of fraud as charged. fraud" has taken on differen, forms cording to local circumstances. In place where a party enrollment is a requisite to participation in the primaries the role have been "padded" by the addition of fictitious names or dead persons. Other names have been stricken off the rolls to late for the persons to secure a re-enroil ment in time for the primaries. Men have een denied the right of enrollment or eb have been subject to so much red tape and delay that busy men would not pursue the that we have yet examined.

It is reported that Senators Platt.

Quay, Foraker and some others have liready formed an offensive and defen-Pavey. It is known as the "Kentucky Plan," as the fundamental idea is taken from the statute of that state. In all places where personal registration of tr voter prior to election is required by law the voter presenting himself for registra tion will be asked the question. Do you de-sire to register for the purpose of partici-pating in the primaries of the political party with which you are affiliated?" He a not required to answer the question. H s not required to disclose how he intends o yote at the next or at any subsequent election. The constitutional provision to secrecy in voting is not infringed, its if he does decline to answer this question or answers "no," he will have no right to participate in the primaries of any politi al party during the next political year f he answers the question in the af rmative he will then be asked, "With what party do you wish to amiliate?" The name of the political party given in an-swer to the latter question will be recordswer to the latter question will be recorded in the columns of the registration book provided therefor. All those who so declare their party allegiance will be entitled to take part in the primaries and conventions of their respective political parties for the period of one year from next election day. These lists will be filed with the county clerk, chief of the bureau of elections or other proper difficults. Certains or other proper difficults. Certains or other proper difficults. of elections or other proper officials. Cer-tified copies of the lists may be procured y any person and must be procured by he county committee of the respective solitical parties and will constitute the official party envolument for the next car. This form of party envolument can be adapted to any form of party organiza-

> The Washington Post considers the Pennsylvania libel law a "vicious survival of the unfittest," and says: "It is high time for Pennsylvania to get wid of a law that assumes malice where all the circumstances disprove its existence-a law that quite as far behind the age as any of he dead and forgotten acts of the colonies in the seventeenth century. In such a commonwealth as Pennsylvania that kind of a law is an offensive anachronism."

tion or systems of primaries an conven-

It is pointed out as a significant example for the guidance of Pennsylvania legisla-tors that Connecticut some years ago con-structed a handsome capitol within the riginal estimate of \$2,500,000.

The proposed barbers' sanitary law which in bill form is now before the house is intended primarily to put a quietus or the tonsorial schools that turn out alleged experis in eight weeks to prey upon an unsuspecting public. The state board of health and local health boards are invited by the pending bill to visit barbershops to see that they are cleanly and that proce precautions are taken to prevent the spread of skin diseases. A state board of five competent barbers is provided to ex-

ite skill, they are issued a license to follow their trade upon the payment of a \$10

Word from Florida is to the effect that Senator Quay and party started yesterday for the North. They had no luck in the tarpon waters, the weather proving too cold. It is probable the senator will come to Harrisburg after the spring elecions to confer with his friends on the apportlanment question.

Says the Wilkes-Barre News-Denler: Representative Alex, T. Connell, of Lackawanna, appears to be an active, hustling member of the house, and he is making himself heard, too, on matters of impor

"GREAT MAJORITIES" GROW.

From the Washington Post. Representative-at-large Galusha A. Frow, of Pennsylvania, has the proud distinction of having received at the last two elections a larger plurality than any other candidate for any office in any state in the Union. His plurality in 1894 was 236,562, and at the last election it was over 297,000, or 4,000 more plurality than Mr. McKinley received in the state. Another eculiar feature in Mr. Grow's early political life was that he was legislated out of ffice by his own party. He represented district in 1850 that gave a majority of about 10,000. Two other districts in Pennsylvania at that time also gave overwhelming Republican majorities, and in redistricting the state on the basis of the vote for President Lincoln a strong Democratic county was added to each one of three Republican districts, in the hope of preventing, the election of Democratic representatives. The result was disas-trous, especially in the district which had formerly been represented by Mr. Grow, for he was defeated in 1862 by 1,400 major-ity. With one exception, this district remained Democratic for many years. Last year, however, the same counties gave him over 11,000 majority.

IMPORTANT IF TRUE.

From the Carbondale Herald. There is a movement afoot to move the capital from Harrisburg to Scranton. Nothing has been said in the Scranton newspapers about it, but we understand that there is much quiet work being done in that direction. In every way Scranton is much better fitted to be the capital than is Harrisburg. Geographically it is its conveniently situated as the latter cit while it has much better railroad facilities in its ability to accomodate the legislati visitors it is away shead of the present captal. It would be a good thing for the state and for Scranton if the capital is moved to Lackawanna county.

TOLD BY THE STARS.

Daily Horoscope Drawn by Ajacchus The Tribune Astrologer. Astrolabe cast: 3.16 a. m., for Friday, Feb. 5, 1897.

(B) 1400 A child born on this day will notice that the fellow who is continually asking addee seldom follows it.

With the state capitol removed, Harris-burg would be of less importance than Wilkes-Barre on days that Sam Boyd is ut of town. It begins to look as though Clifton Knorr

s trying to give Bloomsburg a business Pegassus Sweeney, the councilmanic hampion of the anti-sewerites, is already beginning to let his feet drag.

Ajacchus' Advice.

Keep an eye out for flying microbes in he air; but do not worry about vaccine virus. It cannot contain anything worse

Odds and Ends, we find while taking stock, are being sold at greatly reduced prices to make room for new spring

Have some good Dinner Sets we are closing out very low. \$15.00 Sets, with a few pieces short, now \$10.00.

Clemons, Ferber. O'Malley Co.

422 Lackawanna Ave.



place to buy my office and business sta tionery, blank books, type-writer's supplies, etc., than at Reynolds Bros. They have a large stock in every lin to choose from, and you never can beat them on price on the down scale; and we also carry in stock a complete li of draughtsmen's supplies.

Reynolds Bros.,

Stationers and Engravara, HOTEL JERMYN BUILDING.

Anthony Hope's Fascinat-

ing Romance. Just Issued by the Same Author. Phroso.

437 Spruce Street. Opposite The Commonwealth

A CARD. We take great pleasure in announcing to the ladies of Scranton and vicinity that our Twenty-Second Semi-Annual Sale of Muslin Underwear will begin Monday, February 8th, and will continue during the entire month-Over 2,000 dozens of Gowns, Skirts, Chemise, Drawers, Corset Covers, Infant's Slips, Dresses, etc., have been manufactured expressly for us for this great sale: Great care has been taken to have every garment well made, sizes full, embroidery and laces well matched and of the latest Illustrated catalogues will be placed in nearly every home in the

E. ROBINSON'S SONS'

city, which will give you as perfect an idea as possible of the immensity of

Our well established reputation in this particular line requires no

GOLDSMITH BROTHERS & CO.

this sale and demonstrate the great values that we will offer.

The trading public's obedient servants,

Beer Brewery. ager

Manufacturers of the Celebrated PILSNER LAGER BEER. CAPACITY-100,000 Barrels Per Annum.

ACHANGE

BARGAINS SCRANTON BUSINESS

The shoe store known as the I. Banister store, corner Lackawanna and Wyoming avenues, will hereafter be known as The Banister Shoe Co. The new firm, the James A. Banister Co., of Newark, N. J., are going to make extensive improvements in the store and the building and will close out the entire stock of the store at prices way below any ever offered to the people of this city. The improvements decided upon make it necessary to empty the store of all goods now there, and prices will not be considered to accomplish this result. Among the many improvements will be the doing away with all stands on the Wyoming avenue side and putting entrances and attractive shoe windows in their place. In short they intend having the best and most modern shoe store in the city.

SALE OPENS SATURDAY, FEBRUARY

Below Are a Few Prices. Read Them Carefully:

All Kahler Last Shoes \$5.00 and \$6.00 goods, will be sold for \$3.00 a pair. Laird, Schober & Co.'s Shoes, English Toe, worth \$6.00, for \$2.30 a pair. All the \$4 hand-made Common Sense and Square Toe Shoes, will be sold for \$2.25. All of Gray's \$5.00 hand made Shoes for \$2.50 a pair.

The above are a few of the many bargains we have to offer, and will serve to show the cut made on all lines. Every shoe in the store must be sold. Men's, Boys', Ladies', Misses' and Children's. On tables neatly arranged will be job lots of fine goods that will interest you. Ladies' fine shoes \$1.50 a pair, \$5.00 goods. Ladies' shoes at \$1.00, original price \$3.00 to \$5. Children's and Misses' shoes 50 to 75 cents. Dressing .5c. a bottle. Ladies' rubbers 10c. a pair, etc. It will be necessary to close the store all day Friday to arrange the stock and goods ZENDA on tables for the Opening Day of Sale, Saturday, Feb. 6.

THE BANISTER SHOE COMPANY

W. N. BROOKS, Manager.