

The Scranton Tribune

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For consul general at Havana under McKinley we nominate General Fitzhugh Lee. He has shown the proper spirit for the place.

Instructive Warnings.

When Major McKinley becomes president of the United States he will grant official recognition to the regular government of foreign countries, even though in some of them revolutions or attempted revolutions are in progress. He will properly hold that it is not part of his official function to sit as judge upon the merits of a civil dissension in a friendly foreign nation.

All classes of society and has not found from any quarter an insurmountable objection to it. There are minor details that would require adjustment in the light of experience, as, for instance, whether it would be desirable for congress to issue a fixed per capita quantity of these bonds, subject to revision after each national census; but Mr. Walker is confident that the central principle is sound and that it can be developed in application so as to do away with much of the present liability to periodical money famines arising wholly from fear. We must confess that from a theoretical standpoint the plan has allurements. What have the practical financiers to say?

The proposition to create a special committee of legislative revision has many strong points in its favor, but it would seem practicable to appoint such a committee from the regular membership without incurring extra expense. The legislature must now save every possible penny.

More Light on Spanish Ways.

The character of Spanish government is vividly shown in an incident narrated by William E. Curtis in a letter from Havana to the Chicago Record. Mr. Curtis was secretary of the bureau of South American republics during the Harrison administration and is one of the men most prominently mentioned for the proposed secretaryship of commerce. We cite these facts to show that he is a witness whose testimony merits consideration. He went to Cuba, justified in favor of Spain, as his published writings show, but since his arrival at Havana his daily letters betoken a radical change of conviction. In the letter before us, bearing date of Feb. 14, he explains that the women of Cuba are unanimously in sympathy with the rebellion, and cites numerous reasons therefor. The episode described below is one of them. We now use his language:

Fernando Cusio, a man of the middle class, of excellent reputation, living in one of the interior provinces of Cuba, was arrested some months ago, and sent as a prisoner to the Isle of Pines, just south of Cuba, which is used as a sort of penal colony for political prisoners. There was no overt act charged against him, but he was suspected of "discontent" and communication with the insurgents. His family consisted of one daughter, Evangelina Cusio, between 16 and 17 years old, and he was permitted to take her with him. The girl is remarkably beautiful. Several people who have made her acquaintance agree that she is the most beautiful creature they have ever seen. It is the opinion of Consul-General Lee, who has good judgment in such matters,

Unfortunately for her, the beauty of Evangelina attracted the attention of young Colonel Beriz, soon after she passed under his charge, and he began to make love to her. The girl admits that she was attracted to him because his attentions flattered her vanity, and secondly because she thought it was good policy to do so, as he might use his influence as governor to assist her father and herself to secure a pardon and to return to their home. But the passion of the governor mastered her, and one evening, when she was alone with him in the room that had been assigned to her for lodgings, he assaulted her. She resisted, escaped, and ran screaming down the street. Her father, who was near by, started in a frantic exclamation, ran into the room and attacked the governor with his fists. It is said that he tried to seize the governor's pistol and sword, but was prevented by natural if he did so. Prisoners are not allowed to have arms. A number of other men were in the room, and all, including Colonel Beriz, escaped with their lives. He was very badly battered, and was laid up for several days. In the meantime the governor gave an alarm, and a number of soldiers ran from the guard to the rescue of their commander, fired into the crowd, and killed three or four men.

Fernando Cusio and several others were arrested for mutiny and conspiracy to kill the governor. They were sent to Havana and confined in the fortress of Cabanas. The newspapers reported a serious insurrection among the prisoners on the Isle of Pines, and the governor, in the meantime, ordered Evangelina Cusio to be sent to Havana with her father, but, instead of being imprisoned in the Cabanas, she was committed to a private prison, where her only company was negro prostitutes.

When General and Mrs. Lee recently visited this prison on official business, their attention was attracted by the extraordinary beauty of the young girl, and they learned her story. Although she is not a citizen of the United States, and she had no official authority for interfering in her behalf, General Lee brought her case to the attention of the Marquis Alameda, who at once promised to make arrangements for her release. At the same time Mrs. Lee interested a number of influential Spanish ladies in the girl. They went to see her, brought her suitable clothing and comforts, secured a separate apartment for her, and persuaded their husbands and other gentlemen in high authority to intercede with the acting captain-general. It was arranged to place the girl in the care of the nuns as soon as her release could be secured, and if that were not satisfactory to the authorities they would send her to some convent in the United States or Spain.

Somehow Colonel Beriz learned what was going on, and hastened to Havana, where he made formal charges against the girl. He described her to be a very dangerous character, and accused her of "enticing" the governor of the Isle of Pines into a house in order to enable her father to assassinate him." By calling to General Azcarraga, his uncle, the minister of war at Madrid, he secured an order committing the girl to solitary confinement in the fortress of Cabanas, to await trial for conspiracy. Although the Marquis Alameda used all the influence he possessed, he was powerless. The orders of the minister of war had to be obeyed. The ladies who sympathized had been aroused are still at work in the girl's behalf. They are writing to friends in Madrid, and will appeal to the queen regent, Marquise Colon Beriz is at his post, and has summoned 66 of his officers to testify that Evangelina Cusio is a desperate and dangerous character, and should be kept for conspiring to kill him.

It is against government conducted on these principles that Cubans have rebelled, and it is in exaggerated reference to such government that the Cleveland administration has ignored the command of congress to recognize Cuban belligerency and has virtually maintained an anti-Cuban alliance. How do Americans like it?

The curious fact appears in the report of the secretary of internal affairs that there are in Pennsylvania over 200 "paper" street railways, with a nominal value of \$25,000,000, but representing an actual cash expenditure of only \$2,500,000. Many of these roads comprise speculative schemes similar to that worked by the organizers of the Valley Passenger company, while others are the anchors cast to windward by established traction companies that wish to forestall possible competition. It perhaps would be unfair to call all of these projects fakes aimed at the

spoilation of the public, but it is indubitable that many of them deserve such a characterization and exemplify how the law can itself sometimes be twisted so as to facilitate robbery. One of the important legislative problems of the near future will be whether a better safeguarding cannot be provided for public rights as imperilled by humbug charters.

Section 2001 of the Revised Statutes reads: "All naturalized citizens of the United States, while in foreign countries, are entitled to and shall receive from this government the same protection of person and property which is accorded to native-born citizens. Whenever it is made known to the president that any citizen of the United States has been unjustly deprived of his liberty by or under the authority of any foreign government, it shall be the duty of the president forthwith to demand of that government the reasons of such imprisonment; and if it appears to be wrongful and in violation of the rights of American citizenship, the president shall demand the release of such citizen, and if the release so demanded is unreasonably delayed or refused, the president shall use such means, not amounting to acts of war, as he may think necessary and proper to obtain or effectuate the release." This language, it will be observed, is mandatory. It says the president "shall" and public opinion also says he "shall." After next Thursday he will.

The Rochester Democrat and Chronicle advises "any American citizen who finds it necessary to trust himself within the jurisdiction of Spain to safeguard himself against Spanish brutality by first acquiring citizenship in England, France, Greece or some other nation strong enough and brave enough to protect its citizens." The worst of this is the truth.

The suggestion that Wilkes-Barre's new hotel be named in honor of John Welles Hollenback is an appropriate one. If Wilkes-Barre had a few more men like Mr. Hollenback it would not be so sorely pined for the prospect of getting one slight public improvement.

It is true that the tariff should have the right of way in the Fifty-fifth congress until it is disposed of. But the McKinley administration need not wait that long before beginning the performance of its duty toward Cuba.

It is fortunate that the next secretary of state will be a man to whom the sentiments of his intelligent countrymen are not a subject of indifference.

Just a Word or Two of Casual Mention

The subject of this sketch, Robert Jones, of the West Side, was the peer of the best musical conductors of his day. He is an old-time rival of the late Edwin J. James and is the winner of as many classical trophies as the most successful competitor in the country. Twenty-five years ago he stood at the head of his profession and was a victor in all the splendid musical struggles of former years. It is a well-known fact that the great musical festival of 1872, held under the auspices of the Free Library of the West Side, was, pre-eminently, the grandest ever held in northeastern Pennsylvania. Mr. Jones figured prominently in the various contests, and his superb chorus of 100 voices captured one of the principal trophies of the great event. Owing to an unfortunate mistake by the alto, his magnificent chorus was disqualified.



ROBERT JONES.

From winning the main prize, which, however, in all other respects, was easily within his reach. How few do musicians remember the intense enthusiasm of the great Zerubbabel over that brilliant contest! Mr. Jones seldom met a foe more worthy of his steel in song competitions. He possessed a wonderfully rich baritone voice of phenomenal compass. His Pennsylvania male voice party was the musical pride of the city in those years and easily vanquished all competitors. He had to rest many years as the baton of many concerts. His pride in his old days is to watch the successful strides of his distinguished son—Reeve Jones—is making in the field of music, and well may the son be proud of the well-rounded lessons he received in earlier years from so thorough a master.

Martinius Sleveking, the great pianist, who has created a name for himself in this country and Europe by his mastery playing, will be heard again with pleasure by Scranton music-lovers. The prices of both continents are unanimous in pronouncing Sleveking one of the greatest of living pianists, and characterize his playing as poetic, graceful and masterly, with a peculiarly subtle, lingering charm of tone which vibrates with feeling. Every pianist has his own genre of playing, and Sleveking is poetic as well as a technician.

TOLD BY THE STARS.

Daily Horoscope Drawn by Ajacelus, The Tribune Astrologer. Astrological cast: 1:15 a. m. for Friday, Feb. 26, 1897.

A child born on this day will wonder what Mayor Hallie intends to do about cheap street car fares soon.

Easter eggs and Robert Veal will arrive about the same time this year.

It generally pays to hold on to almost any good thing but a cake of ice.

Captain Delaney evidently proposes to make the editor of the Pennsylvania Methodist Swallow his words.

The lazy man can always become weary over imaginary tasks.

Riang is brainless man's substitute for will.

Ajacelus' Advice.

Do not kick a man who is down. It isn't safe, unless the man is dead.

STATE LEGISLATIVE TOPICS.

A bill now before the house of representatives, and which is attracting a great deal of attention from members of the bar, is that which is known as the "Act providing for the appointment and payment of legislative commissioners," etc. If the bill becomes a law, the governor is to appoint three persons possessing all the qualifications of judges of the Supreme court, to serve from the 1st of December prior to the assembling of the legislature until after the session, to redraft and report upon proposed bills upon the request of senators or representatives, who are to refer to the commission for report as provided in the act. This report is to contain: First, a concise statement of the existing law, if any, and the change proposed; second, a reference to similar legislation, if any, pending before the legislature; third, suggested amendments of substance and the reasons therefor; fourth, suggested amendments of language and the reasons therefor; fifth, other constitutional and statutory requirements, if any, have been complied with.

A Philadelphia Ledger reporter recently had a talk with Representative John F. Keator, who introduced the bill (which was drawn by a committee of the Bar Association of Pennsylvania), about the scope and purpose of the measure. It was suggested to Mr. Keator that some members regard the proposed law as one that would interfere with the rights and duties. "On the contrary," was the reply, "it will be a great aid to the legislature. It is ministerial and directory. In preventing mistakes and ill-considered legislation the law would be extremely valuable." He explained this point more fully by saying:

"It is well known that there are often several bills pending in the house or senate upon the same subject with different phraseology, and perhaps conflicting interests. Now, this committee would suggest amendments of substance and give reasons therefor, and also reasonable regulations of the exchange of bills, and also whether constitutional and statutory requirements had been complied with. This brief report is to be made to the governor, and each member of each house during its passage through either house. There are bills that often pass through the house which cover many parts of the same subject, the only way one has, without devoting a great deal of time to it, is to get his information upon the spot at the moment when the floor from the person presenting the bill. As a matter of practice this is hardly done at times, and the large number of the bills are voted upon completely without, and, perhaps, do not learn the full effect of the proposed act until it is too late to be of any use. This bill, in this state and other states a great deal of hasty, improvident, haphazard and worse legislation."

"What is the idea of this bill originate?" Mr. Keator was asked. "A law similar to this is in effect in England," he replied, "and has worked admirably, and the Bar Association of this state favored it last summer, when it was freely discussed at Bedford Springs. It would prevent hasty legislation. Most of all, it would be an effectual quietus upon all improper or crooked legislation. The report would be given to the respective committees, and each day would be set upon the proposed acts of assembly before they were passed, and while it is not too late. It would certainly be a great benefit to the state. In an instance, I believe, where two contradictory bills were unwittingly passed by the same legislature. There is another instance of the kind in the Pennsylvania laws, 200 pages in the Pamphlet Laws, was declared unconstitutional when it reached the Supreme court; and still another act was passed, drawn by an attorney, and when it reached the Supreme court was rendered unconstitutional, and report had it that it was drawn with the object of making it unconstitutional. It passed the legislature all the same, and accomplished the purpose desired by the astute lawyer. No man who is interested in the welfare of his client who did not wish to be affected by that law."

Concerning the new prison reform bill introduced by Representative S. J. Fifer, the Philadelphia Ledger editorially says: "As to the necessity for thorough reform in the management of the county prisons, there can be no question among those who have given attention to the subject. The board of charities year after year have unambiguously expressed their disapproval and disreputable prison methods in vogue in the great majority of the counties. The general agent of the board for the several years past has been John C. Bullitt, scientist in civil service reform, that he made that declaration before Mr. Cleveland became president.

BETTER TIMES AT HAND. From the Brooklyn Standard-Union. There is reason to believe that better times are at hand, and this is not merely the growth of public opinion that the worst is over, but the fact that the political sentiment or the exultation of partisans over a victory declines as to the policy of the executive for some years and the production of the confidence that is felt in the solidity of material conditions.

A KING WORTH HAVING. From the Washington Post. Three cheers, we say, for George of Greece. If there were a few more kings of his type—kings for humanity, for honesty or greed or fear—the world would be a better and a cleaner world, and honest men might have less contempt for monarchy.

AS IT OFTEN HAPPENS. We'd often warned her not to light the fire with kerosene. And emphasized the warning, since the girl seemed rather green. This morning, while my wife and I enjoyed our breakfast nap. That poor girl tried the coal oil trick— "Without the least mishap.

A dark preacher bought a mule which balked and wouldn't go. And how to start the animal he really didn't know. "Why don't you twist the critter's tail?" insisted Reuben, from the farm. The pastor instantly complied and— "It worked just like a charm.

He took a rusty musket down and thought it wasn't loaded; He pulled the hammer back and found the works were quite corroded; He then blew down the muzzle, hard, to see if aught was in it— "There wasn't—so he loaded it in less than half a minute. —Frank S. Pixley, in Times-Herald.

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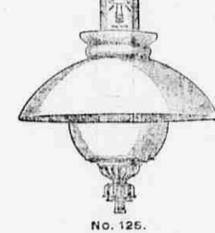


ONE EXCEPTION. From the Sun. In a paper read several years ago before the Social Science Association, John C. Bullitt, author of the present system of government in Philadelphia, said: "I care not how bold, how reckless, how defiant a man may be, let him be placed in the chief executive office of a government, where public sentiment can be concentrated upon him, and he can be held up to the censure and scorn of his fellow citizens if he departs from the path of rectitude, and he will quit under the gaze of Bullitt, scientist in civil service reform, that he made that declaration before Mr. Cleveland became president.

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