

# The Scranton Tribune

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 SCRANTON, MARCH 1, 1897.  
 To insure publication in this paper, volunteered communications of a controversial character MUST BE STENOGRAPHIC FOR PUBLICATION BY THE WRITER'S true name. To this rule we cannot hereafter make exception.

## The American Policy.

The language used in the senate last week, during the Sanguilly debate, by Hon. John Sherman, who is to be, after Thursday, our secretary of state, is worthy of a second repetition. More than that; it is fit to be engraved as a motto and put above the desk of every American official representing the interests of this government in a foreign land. Here it is:

"I trust in God the time will never come when I will see an American citizen wronged of his rights and persecuted unjustly, by any power, great or small. I am opposed to wrong and violence and tyranny, wherever it is exercised, and when it is inflicted upon a citizen of the United States I will stand by him if I am alone."

## A foreign policy consistently and vigorously conducted on this basis will command the respect of every citizen whose respect is worth having.

Any other policy will be equally sure to wind up in disgrace, as the Cleveland-Olney policy of truckling to Spain has done, to the infinite harm of American prestige abroad.

Dr. Swallow should reflect that discretion is quite as great a virtue as zeal. In most instances, it is a greater.

## Turn on the Light.

It is in every respect proper that the charges deliberately brought by the Pennsylvania Methodist against Captain Delaney, superintendent of public buildings and grounds, and other prominent state officials should receive a thorough and impartial investigation, and to this end the bringing of criminal libel suits against Rev. Dr. Swallow, the editor of that journal, is to be commended. If he have proof for his assertions, not only will the suit against him fail to the ground but he will have won credit for unmasking a great public abuse. If his charges be not capable of establishment in open court, he will merit the extreme penalty of the law provided for wanton defamation of character.

## The most direct charge made by Dr. Swallow, in his capacity as the editor of the Methodist, against Captain Delaney is that "in the purchase of material and labor, for making additions, alterations, repairs and refurbishing the capitol buildings, and cellars and grounds, also for the executive mansion and now for Grace church, the state has lost many thousands of dollars as the result of an unfair system of competitive bidding. In other words, that the cost to the state has been two, three, four, and as high as eight times in some instances as much as it should have been, and that not all of this money went to the persons furnishing the materials and labor."

Further, the Methodist affirms: "That the act of 1885 by which the governor, auditor general, and state treasurer constitute the board of commissioners of public grounds and buildings, having control of repairs, alterations and improvements, and expenses incurred, including furnishing and refurbishing, is corrupting in its tendencies, pernicious in its results, and has already cost the state at least \$100,000 more than the same improvements, etc., etc., should have cost under some other system of management."

That the burning of the capitol building by which the state lost over \$1,000,000 worth of valuable property, if at all accidental was also in a sense incidental. That the possibility of a fire had been for some time discussed by employees of the state, and that it was a logical sequence of having exhausted excuses for expending public money. And further, that there is convincing evidence of criminal carelessness and neglect on the part of the state house custodians, and, presumptive evidence of criminal intent.

These and other charges are made by the Methodist daringly and with an open challenge for a legal test of their falsity or truth. It is true that that journal rests these accusations on the shoulders of an unnamed resident of Harrisburg "who is responsible for what he says" and who, according to the Methodist, "will suffer the severest penalties of the law rather than summon his witnesses before any committee or court of inquiry which is the creature of a body whose vote is controlled by one man, and he an intensely interested party;" but the responsibility for the publication of such charges rests plainly upon Dr. Swallow as he doubtless foresaw when he gave assent to the article's appearance, and he should welcome an opportunity to defend himself and to prove his charges in the Dauphin county court.

It is a refreshing sign of the times that there is no call for arbitration with Spain except with a gun.

## Hugwump Foolishness.

That usually fair and judiciously edited newspaper, the Philadelphia Public Ledger, utters one proposition to which we must offer decided objection. It says:

The inconsiderate, bitter and denunciatory deliberations of the Jingo senators in the debate upon the Sanguilly case were an affront to the dignity of the country which the hotspur senators profess to be so anxious to maintain. Secrecy of that character intensifies the growing popular feeling that the senate has survived its usefulness as a governing body, and strengthen the movement for the election of United States senators directly by the people.

With all the respect for our admirable contemporary, what it here says is not only not true in fact, but ought never to become true. It will be a sorry day for the American people when

their representatives in public station do not have both the inclination and the manhood to voice with emphasis their detestation of outrages perpetrated by the myriads of a foreign power upon an inoffensive and unoffending American citizen. Instead of the senate falling in public esteem because it has stood up, in many instances, for the rights of American citizenship and for the full measure of respect due by treaty stipulation from a friendly power for our national credentials, exactly the opposite is true. By no other act in its history has the present senate done so much to restore itself to the favor of the people or to remove the erroneous impression that it has ceased to be of use in our scheme of government. It is unfortunate when ignorant journalists seek to discredit virtue Americanism; but it is deplorable when the inane chatter of mugwumpery proceeds from a source otherwise worthy of high esteem.

As for the delusion that the popular election of senators would cause a difference to appear in the quality of the senate, except for the worse, this hardly needs to be controverted. The simple statement that governors who are elected directly, are upon the average certainly not superior, but rather inferior, to the senators chosen under the present system, disposes of the whole matter. Let us have done with foolishness on this subject.

The fact that Spain's decision to pardon Sanguilly was reached simultaneously with our decision to demand it is another coincidence for philosophers to contemplate. We could have more of such coincidences if our state department had more back bone.

## Sentiment Aroused at Last.

Writes Rev. Dr. McConnell in the Outlook:  
 Almost in sight of the fair Southern gate the republic shall desolate Cuba. The moral sense of Christendom is outraged, and its heart is sore when it looks that way. Confusion, cruelty, anarchy, devastation and war work have been all these years at our very door. Whose place is it to speak the word which could end it all? Clearly ours. Who is not aghast at the possibility of a war? We are comfortable, decently dressed and going about our own business. What is it to us if we pass two miles from the possible theater of war? Let us hasten, or we will be late at our offices! No lust of war, but lust of money, is our fault. The nation which waltzes up the sword shall perish by the sword. This has been proven again and again. But the nation which timidly puts its hands in its pockets when God offers to lead it to do His will perishes as surely.

Another person, evidently a clergyman, writes to the Philadelphia Record:  
 I am eternally disgraced by my citizenship in a country which stands before the world as the herald and champion of liberty. I will lift no strong hand against wrong so close to my own doors that we cannot escape the degradation of witnesses to the soul-scouring horrors which though we take refuge in a cowardly denial of responsibility, there is some fire where so much smoke arises. The world has never to be almost fit to live in—its spirit—not by the exercise of a cautious diplomacy and a referendum of conduct to the rules of safety to skin and pocketbook, but by courage and sympathy and appeals to the everlasting law of right. Naked will we be before the storm that must come if we allow conscience to become corrupted by injustice to our individuals and by our nations, also was the warning spoken: "Depart, ye accursed; for I was naked and ye clothed me not, sick and in prison ye came not unto me." There is a feeling not groundless that our political leaders are timid if not enslaved. If it is a power they can depend on there is the power of the press. In God's name, cry aloud and spare not!

These are merely samples of the expressions of opinion now current among the better class of American citizens outside of the precincts of the white house and the state department. At no time since the trouble in Cuba assumed threatening proportions has educated American sentiment reached a higher pitch of sympathy for the Cubans in revolt or of more indignant contempt for their Spanish oppressors. But above all this is the feeling, too well defined, that our government has failed to assert the mastery of American citizenship and has lent its good offices to strengthen the most odious cause on earth. This sentiment is something that the new president will not dare to ignore. A change in our policy is clearly nigh, whether it be now intended or not.

Objection is expressed to the principle of a graded tax on bequests. It is held that the state should collect the same percentage from an estate of \$100 as from one of \$1,000,000. Theoretically this is true. But it is also true that in practice the estate of \$100 generally pays more and gets less from the state, in proportion, than the million dollar one. In other words, the larger a man's possessions, the smaller, usually, is his percentage of actual taxation in comparison with the protective benefits received by him. The one practicable way to correct this inequality of taxation during a man's lifetime is to reverse the inequality after his death. We admit that this is not a very strong defense of the graded inheritance tax, from a theoretical standpoint, but it at least recognizes the state's right to demand its due better late than never.

Lord Salisbury's explanation of the decision of the powers with reference to Crete will, we should think, hardly satisfy intelligent European opinion. If the Cretans don't want to be governed by Turkey, why should they be forced to? It is clear that they don't, and it is also clear that if the King of Greece can keep up his nerve a short time longer he will be enabled yet by public sentiment to carry his point.

We have received from the Pennsylvania Civil Service Reform association the copy of a memorial in which it petitions the state legislature to amend the present ballot law by doing away with party columns and by providing that the names of candidates be arranged by alphabetical order under the title of the office to be filled. We have already advocated these changes on the two-fold ground that they would promote simplicity and necessitate a more careful and thoughtful scrutiny of candidates' names. In the subsequent discussion which this proposition has aroused we discover no reason to modify our belief that the proposed amendments should be made.

## LOOKING AHEAD.

From a Letter by Francis Weyland Glen in the New York Sun.  
 The Western Hemisphere, including the islands adjacent thereto upon the east and west, which belong to it, as satellites belong to a planet, has an area of more than 15,000,000 square miles, equal to four times the area of Europe. At the close of the present century the population of the hemisphere will exceed 125,000,000. The population of Europe at that time will be nearly, or quite, 50,000,000. If this hemisphere had the same number of inhabitants per square mile as Europe now has, the total population would be 1,200,000,000—equal to the entire population of the earth at the present time. The opportunities for growth and development in the American continent at a glance are practically unlimited.

The majority party in the republic in its convention at St. Louis in June last declared in plain terms in favor of the withdrawal of all European powers from this hemisphere and the establishment of the United States, Canada and Newfoundland, or, in other words, the creation of a continental republic extending from Newfoundland to the Arctic sea—in short, for continental union. This is not by any means a new departure or policy. The Continental congress at its first session in 1776 sent Benjamin Franklin, John Carroll and Samuel Chase to Quebec to urge the Canadian people to cast in their lot with their own continent and form a continental republic. The St. Louis convention, therefore, only reaffirmed the policy of the founders of this republic.

The most striking feature of the influence, prestige and power of government by the people, to reduce the per capita cost of government and defence, and to secure peace and order as nearly as possible all conflicting and disturbing elements and political issues.

When our forefathers proposed to unite the whole continent under one republican administration the entire population did not exceed 3,000,000, and steam navigation was not yet directed and controlled by man for his service were comparatively unknown. Had the mission of Franklin, Carroll and Chase been successful in the establishment of a continental republic in the same manner as the southern half has been, and the republic thereafter formed by our forefathers has proved to be a source of strength, influence and power; had never a source of weakness. It gave the new nation credit, it invited immigration, settlement, development and capital. British America remained until 1867 divided into seven independent states or provinces, and since that time it has been the poorest and least developed of the United States is fourteen times that of Canada.

The province of Quebec has an area of 27,000 square miles. In 1831 it had a population of 553,000. Its present population does not exceed 1,500,000. It is bounded by the St. Lawrence river, the natural outlet and inlet of the commerce of the entire northwest of Canada and the United States. The climate is healthful, the soil fertile, the fisheries of the province of great value, and its mineral and timber resources are unsurpassed. Massachusetts has an area of 8,000 square miles. In 1830 it had a population of 610,000. It will be observed that Quebec is twenty-nine times larger than the state of Massachusetts; nevertheless the population of the province of Quebec is nearly as great as that of the whole dominion. New York has an area of 47,000 square miles. The population in 1830 was 2,000,000. In 1890 it was 7,500,000. The population of the state is nearly as great as that of the whole dominion. Illinois has an area of 55,000 square miles. Its population in 1830 was 1,500,000. In 1890 it was 4,900,000. Iowa has an area of 51,000 square miles. In 1830 it had a population of 42,000. In 1890, the population was 2,050,000. Minnesota has an area of 22,000 square miles. In 1830 the population was 52,000. In 1890 it was 1,500,000. These facts indicate the value of the union formed in 1776 by the American people, the development and creation of wealth within this republic. The wisdom of our forefathers in proposing union to the Canadians in 1776 by the American people is clearly demonstrated in the Canadian refusing to accept the overtures made to them has been proved and established.

## Just a Word or Two of Casual Mention

A first prize of \$50 and a number of smaller prizes will be offered by the Century Dictionary and Cyclopedia, for the best answers to a hundred and fifty questions covering a broad range of information.  
 A sample question, which is easier than some of them, is as follows: "What is the approximate difference in altitude between the highest and lowest points of the greatest depression in the Mediterranean basin?"  
 An additional prize of \$50 is offered to any one who can answer 90 per cent. of the questions from any published works of reference other than the Century Dictionary and Cyclopedia. This is a chance for Scranton know-alls.

Major W. S. Miller arrived home Saturday afternoon at 1:30 o'clock from a ten days' inspection tour of the various regiments of the United States Army in the eastern part of the state. He came direct from Lock Haven. Major Miller said that the inspection showed a large increase in the numbers of the guards. The discipline was excellent and, as a whole, the rating was even better than in former years. Major Miller discovered that there had been a good deal of dissatisfaction over the failure of the state to send the guards to Washington. The feeling has, however, quieted down somewhat and when camp times come it will be all forgotten.

Saturday evening ex-Sheriff Charles Robinson, John Bonore and Victor Koch returned from their southern and western trip. The gentlemen expressed themselves as having enjoyed the sojourn. While at Hot Springs the Scranton party, including Charles H. Miller and E. J. Fish, who remain a week longer, literally owned the resort. For the time being the society of the place was "cornered" by the Scranton contingent. The trip resulted in much benefit to health of the members of the party.

## ILLITERACY A CRUDE TEST.

From the Washington Post.  
 We know by our own experience that the illiterate are by no means the most dangerous and pestiferous element in our population. The turbulent and incendiary factors in the social scheme are largely made up of the half-educated in our towns and cities—men educated just enough to make them discontented, but not enough to give them wisdom or information. It is in the densely populated slums that the most dangerous and turbulent agitators are found. They can read, but not with understanding. They can write, but only just enough to concoct a proclamation of anarchy and license. They are the real enemies of social order and free political institutions, and they come here, not from the peaceful and industrious rural population of Europe, but from the slums and penitentiaries of the great cities. Absolute illiteracy does not necessarily mean vice and crime. A little education too often means mischief against turbulence and conspiracy. We know this because we see it among our own people, white and colored alike. The people we want to exclude from our country are not the merely illiterate, so much as the drones, the siliers, the criminals, the incendiaries, who have just enough learning to inflame their feeble minds against law and order, property and thrift, society and civilization.

## THAT IT WILL.

From the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle.  
 If, ten minutes after William McKinley shall have taken the oath to uphold a constitution and maintain the rights of the citizens of the United States, it comes to his knowledge that a single American citizen unlawfully usurped in Cuba it will become his duty to cause steps to be taken for his release before the going down of the sun on the fourth day of March.

## TIME TO OBJECT.

From the Philadelphia Bulletin.  
 It is time that newspapermen began to draw the line on the reckless fakers who circulate these dangerous canards. The statement about John Sherman was deliberately coined in the imagination of a professional liar, whose hide ought to be tickled with a cat o' nine tails.

## NO COMPROMISE POSSIBLE.

From the Philadelphia Press.  
 Spanish barbarism and this country will find that no compromise with it is possible and that protection can be secured for our citizens only by a display of force.

From a Letter by Francis Weyland Glen in the New York Sun.  
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Established union has proved a great blessing in North America, why should it not also prove a blessing in Central and South America. The population of the United States, Canada, Newfoundland, Hawaii, and the West Indies in 1900 will exceed 30,000,000. If the increase in population in 1920 the population will be 50,000,000. The population of Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Salvador and Costa Rica in 1900 will not be less than 18,000,000. If the increase in the population of these six republics increases at the rate of 20 per cent. for each decade, their population in 1950 will be 40,000,000. This is the best interest of the people of Mexico and Central America is promoted by political union? The population of the ten republics which now constitute central South America is 40,000,000. If the increase is 20 per cent. for each decade of years, the population in 1950 will be 100,000,000. Will not their political union by stability to government by the people in South America and invite immigration, development and capital far more rapidly than if they continue as now, separate and independent republics?

Including San Domingo, Hayti and Hawaii, there are twenty republics at the present time in the Western Hemisphere. The influence, prestige and power to government by the people throughout the world if they are reduced by voluntary political union for this representative republic of the world, by honorable, peaceful and lawful means to urge the union as above proposed?

## BETRAYED BY A QUESTION.

When Senator Harris was last at Nashville, Tenn., he fell into the trap of one of the state legislators, with whom he was walking down the street. The local lawbreaker felt it incumbent upon him to entertain the veteran senator for two decades, and chirped merrily as the two passed along until the conversation reached this point, when he asked: "Is Senator Harris a very smart man?" The senator, bent with his many years, plopped along, seemingly unimpaired by the remark. His companion made no reply, but he looked at a clock or two. But he roused himself, and with a stern eye answered: "Young man, years ago Senator Harris was a country school teacher in a small Ohio town. Today he is a multimillionaire. I consider you a blank-blanked fool."—Washington Post.

## THE "JUNIOR REPUBLIC."

William B. George's philanthropic work in founding and carrying on an orphan asylum known as the "Junior Republic," where boys and girls recruited from the slums of New York city are trained for useful citizenship, is the subject of an article by Cora Stuart Wheeler in the Woman's Home Companion. She says: "Having come to the republic, the boy or girl is accepted as a citizen. He or she at once given, as in the republic of the United States, a choice of occupations. Having selected his line, he or she is trained as a citizen. He or she is at once allowed to change their minds exactly as they please. They find their little republic no more exalting than the greater, both take from them what they are worth. They learn no royal road to wealth or success other than careful and painstaking endeavor. They are paid

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Something from the moment they begin to work, if it is only in their unskilled labor of blacking stoves or paring potatoes, which is the first step towards unskilled work in the cooking classes. The boy who has saved up his money in the republican bank invests his surplus when he leaves, if he chooses, in these results of his handiwork. There is no compulsion; it would not be consistent in a republic to compel its citizens to work. Here again is the object lesson of working for what they need or going without. One of the practical acts of their legislature was a bill declaring in so many words: "No tax shall be levied for the support of the able-bodied boy or girl who can work and won't."

"In all the classes the hours for working are from half-past eight in the morning to noon. The afternoon is given up to recreation until half-past five, so that the children shall feel only the joys of the well-spent time and none of the depression of confinement, except in the case of prisoners, their keepers and the police force on duty. A citizen presents himself for work at any hour that he chooses, but his absence being deducted from his wages soon teaches him the wisdom of working full hours. The unskilled laborer receives but 50 cents a day, and his running expenses (10 cents for each meal, 10 cents for lodging and about 3 cents for taxes), with the necessary incidentals, are at the least 40 cents a day. It will easily be seen it would take but a short time to run badly behind. As the idea is to teach good citizenship from the first, there are no states, each class is represented by one vote for every twenty persons. In the senate each class has one member elected for a period of two weeks, who must be at least 15 years of age. Mr. George, his wife and the president, with the power of veto. During 1886 he vetoed only eight bills and signed fifty-four."

## A MILD PROTEST.

"It's really tryin' ter have a friend a-takin' ye 'round the town  
 Who stops ye, when ye're tryin' in yer  
 An' says with a knowin' frown,  
 'It's rather purty, that buildin' is, but  
 'It's evident, at a glance,  
 That they've gone too fur in the Gothic  
 style when it should have been  
 Renaissance!"

He gives his opinions in such a way as ter say ye without a doubt  
 That ye'll like it 'ud show ye didn't  
 Know what ye was talkin' about.  
 So I jest 'las' low an' reply "that's so" ter  
 their eloquent words of his  
 'Bout the things that yer have been an'  
 ain't, an' that orn't ter be, an' is.

I saw a plecter I thought was fine, but I jes' kep' mum an' meek  
 'Cause he said, while the artist showed  
 'feelin' some, he didn't have no teek-  
 nique.  
 I'll never forget how sort o' small an'  
 sheship I felt one day  
 When I was out 'ere 'roundin' ter the op'ry  
 house fur ter hear the music play  
 When I shet my eyes an' imagined I  
 heard the strains from an angel's  
 harp.

Says he: "That composer writes down'er  
 flat when he really means 'sharp'?"  
 So I thankfully drank his wisdom in, an'  
 stifled the grate that riz.  
 'Fore I know'd what order have been an'  
 ain't, an' what orn't ter be, an' is.  
 But one of these days I'll steal a march  
 on this critical friend of mine,  
 I'm goin' ter visit the city without so  
 much as a single line  
 Ter let 'em know that we've tuk the train,  
 an' I'll stay at a strange hotel  
 An' go round by myself ter see the  
 things that I like so well.  
 An' I'll say that the buildin's splendid,  
 mostly in the style of an article by  
 an' I'll dream an' drift with the music,  
 as so often I've wanted to.  
 An' my heart will puls' with pleasure  
 ter know the fear of its bell' friz  
 By hearin' what order have been an'  
 ain't, an' what orn't ter be, an' is.  
 —Phlander Johnson in Washington Star.

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