

The Scranton Tribune

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SCRANTON, MAY 1, 1897.

Some allowance must be made for the fact that President Nealis is new to the business. The chances are he will gain wisdom with experience.

Humanity at Police Headquarters.

The case of Washington Davis, if correctly reported, involves a point of some importance. Here was a man suffering intense pain from a fractured leg. The police arrest him. At the station he begs for the attendance of a physician. They laugh at him. He is put in a cell and forced to remain there in excruciating agony all night and until far into the next day before surgical relief came. Even then it is with reluctance that the bright minds in control of the police department decided upon the simple precaution of summoning a medical attendant.

Suppose it to be true that Davis, prior to the fracturing of his leg, had been guilty of conduct warranting his arrest. We don't know anything about that, but let us give the police force the benefit of their suspicions. Is there nobody at the central station in this city with sufficient intelligence to distinguish between actual suffering and shamming on the part of prisoners? Is there nobody at headquarters with inclination or authority, when in doubt on this point, to call in the services of a physician? In other words, is humanity a lost art in the lower portion of the municipal building?

We do not boast an expert knowledge of law, but it is our impression that in this particular case the city has laid itself open to an action for damages.

With reference to the argument advanced by a correspondent in yesterday's issue that if capital punishment were abolished, convicts under life sentence could commit murder at will, we guess they couldn't do this in any well-regulated jail. If society's idea in punishing a criminal is simply to get him out of the way, then assassination might well be adopted as the penalty for every serious offense. If it be a deterrent in one class of crimes, why not in all classes?

An Accomplished Scold.

Those persons who are regular readers of the New York Times do not need to be told that one of the most prominent mental characteristics of its distinguished editor, Mr. Charles D. Miller, is to attribute superior morality to the men who agree with him in opinion and unworthy motives to those who differ from him. This frame of mind by long cultivation has become a ruling passion; so much so that one no longer looks to the Times' editorial page for sane and liberal comment on public affairs, but rather for literary curiosities in the employment of finished English in the most extreme and illiberal uses.

The announcement that Mr. Miller, in the May Forum, would pay his respects to the senate assured a literary treat even if it did not promise an opinion which fair-minded men could approve. And the Forum itself fulfills this expectation to the letter. Hear this specimen growl:

It is not alone by obstinate ill-doing that the senate has forfeited the public respect. In what it refuses to do, or does grudgingly under the lash of compulsion, it is unbearably exasperating. The mulish stubbornness with which it has resisted the will of the people in respect of the Treaty of Arbitration is a flagrant example of degenerate practices. That treaty was conceived in the spirit of higher civilization, of advancing humanity, of that insuperable expediency that is an inherent quality of truth and honesty and justice. No right-minded man sufficiently advanced to have any doubts as to the discarded stone hatchet and the club, could have refrained from acclaiming the principle of arbitration as a happy means of escaping the carnage of war. The instrument had been perfected by the diligent labors of men incomparably able and broader than any that now sit in the senate. It was such a pact as an enlightened branch of the treaty-making power would have ratified after a delay sufficient only to allow its chief statesmen to express worthy thoughts on joining in a work of such beneficence. Yet from the moment it received the treaty from the hands of the president, the United States senate has raised at it and rent it savagely, as though it were a leagued with death.

Now it must be admitted that this is admirable rhetoric. But what about the facts at issue? In the first place, Mr. Miller's inference that the senate's objection to the original form of the arbitration treaty as it came to that body from the pens of Messrs. Olney and Pauncefote arose from perverse hostility to the principle of arbitration stands refuted by the solemn assertions of every leading senator who opposed the treaty. Are those senators deliberate liars? Or may not Editor Miller be slightly mistaken? The second assertion that the men who drew up the first draft of the treaty—that is, Mr. Olney and Sir Julian Pauncefote—were "incomparably able and broader than any that now sit in the senate" is merely Mr. Miller's individual belief. He has a right to express it, but he has no right to accuse of unworthy impulses those who hold beliefs dissimilar to it. We are ready to credit Mr. Olney with being a great man; yet in the sphere of diplomacy it will hardly be denied that he was green, fresh and unpolished—just the kind of a soft thing for which the accomplished ambassador of Her Imperial Majesty was looking.

The fact that many of the best thinkers of the country—we think we may say a majority of them—after a study of the senate debates have recognized the cunningly masked snare concealed in the arbitration treaty's first draft and have discovered that Secretary Olney, to whom must be attributed the best and noblest of intentions, was effectually lured by his more adroit British fellow negotiator, stands forth as the senate's sufficient defense, and renders language like that of Mr. Mil-

ler simply amusing. We as a nation are thoroughly committed to the principle of arbitration and stand at the very head of the peace procession; but there is no particular reason why, because of this fact, we should not exercise care and penetration in the ratification of far-reaching treaties. It isn't always the title of a proposed enactment which discloses the entire purpose of its text.

It appears that the Nelson bankruptcy bill exempts corporations from bankruptcy proceedings. This will be fatal to it in the house. To be acceptable a bill of this character must be general in character, and fair to all sections and all classes. The Torrey bill fulfilled these conditions more nearly than any other measure yet drawn. It has the endorsement of representative business men all over the country. The house, when it reaches this subject, will do well to substitute the Torrey for the Nelson bill and instruct its conferees not to recede from that position. Then the senate will be placed in a position where it cannot dodge.

Prison Reform Again.

A series of bills for the improvement of penal conditions in Pennsylvania has been drafted by Francis J. Torrance, of Allegheny, sanctioned by the state board of charities and introduced at Harrisburg with every prospect of a speedy passage. Since the other prison reform bills previously submitted to the legislature have either been killed outright or tied up in committee, it is doubly essential that these measures should receive early consideration.

The first bill of the series directs that all female convicts sentenced to the penitentiary be confined in the Western penitentiary, where suitable accommodations and methods of government prevail. The second bill empowers any court in the commonwealth exercising criminal jurisdiction to sentence any male first offender between the ages of 15 and 30 years to the Huntington reformatory. At present the age limit is 25 years. The third bill overhauls the present defective system relating to the care of insane convicts in the state penitentiaries, and virtually converts a portion of the Eastern penitentiary into an insane asylum with separate accounts and supervision. The fourth bill is the most radical. It introduces the parole system by investing the governor with power to release prisoners on conditional parole provided:

(a) That no convict or prisoner shall be paroled until he has been imprisoned one-half of the full term to which he was sentenced, nor unless he has complied with all the rules and regulations while there in confinement.

(b) That a convict sentenced or committed to life imprisonment shall not be eligible to parole until he has been imprisoned twenty years from the date of the sentence.

(c) That such paroled convict shall remain in the legal custody of the board of inspectors of the penitentiary from which he was paroled, and for any criminal offense he may commit during the term of his original sentence may be taken back within the inclosure of the institution.

(d) That in considering subjects for parole the respective boards of inspectors shall not entertain petitions or receive any written or oral communications, or hear any argument from any attorney or other person not connected with the penitentiary in favor of the parole of any prisoner therein confined, but the boards may, if they deem proper, inquire into the facts by correspondence or otherwise so as to learn the previous history or character of any prisoner.

(e) No prisoner shall be considered eligible to parole until a recommendation therefor be made in writing by the warden and chaplain of such penitentiary, and with such a recommendation, shall be attached evidence that the prisoner has means of subsistence or can procure employment whereby he can be further removed from the temptation to relapse into crime.

(f) The paroled prisoner shall make monthly returns to the warden of the penitentiary from which he was conditionally released in which he shall state the number of days and character of his employment during the preceding month. In this his employer shall unite or certify thereof may be furnished by other parties if required.

Each man, when released, shall be given a certificate wherein shall be entered the facts in his case as above noted, and that this parole is conditioned upon his strict obedience to law and may be forfeited by a vicious life. It will be perceived that this last measure, while it involves a radical departure from the present treatment of criminals, escapes many of the objections which we offered yesterday against the experiment of a similar character now on trial in Indiana. It does not take from the trial judge the power of passing sentence nor does it enable the prison officials to turn loose a favorite criminal at the expiration of the minimum imprisonment. It simply provides an incentive for good behavior and informs the convict that if he has a mind to try to make a man of himself the state will help him. It is a proposition in the right direction. The occasion upon which it would do good would be likely far outnumber the occasions upon which its operation would be attended by ill results.

Is Senator Quay preparing to offer a few more remarks upon the tariff?

The Cause of Cuba.

From all accounts the official promulgation at Madrid of the Cuban reform project, upon representations from Weyler that the war is over, is for a two-fold purpose. The Spanish government hopes by these fake reforms to pull away from the insurgents a certain conservative business element who would prefer peace at any price to the costs of war; and it also is endeavoring to produce the impression upon the overtaxed and grumbling peasantry of Spain that it has done something big with the vast sums that it has squandered on the Cuban war. Being intensely ignorant, the peasantry will take the government at its word and submit in patience to a fresh imposition of taxation.

The semblance of truthfulness is lent to Weyler's representation by the fact that the rainy season has set in, when both sides to the Cuban conflict have to suspend aggressive operations. The "pacification" of which Weyler boasts is simply the sullen neutrality of necessity, during which each party will mend its ways for the future. No true Cuban will take any stock whatever in Spanish promises of reform. None will yield an inch to the hated foe beyond such concession as is the

outgrowth of finesse or trickery. The war has gone too far; its devastation has been too frightful; the outrages characterizing the Spaniard's conduct of it have been too brutal and inhuman ever to permit a genuine pacification in the sense in which the word is used within the confines of civilization.

Not the least significant of the recent developments in the Cuban controversy is the report that as soon as President McKinley named Judge Day for the assistant secretaryship of state, he asked William J. Calhoun, of Illinois, a lifelong personal friend, to go as this government's special commissioner to Cuba. Judge Calhoun is an American from head to toe. He was in hearty sympathy with the Cuban plank adopted by the St. Louis convention, and he was not born yesterday. The presence of Sherman and Day in the state department, McKinley in the white house, and Calhoun as special commissioner to Cuba means more for the cause of the Cuban patriots than careless opinion is disposed to believe.

It is impossible that in any senate where sat a Webster or a Sumner the means and unutilized half would, in so grave a business as the consideration of the application to achieve an almost untried triumph. The savages would sink away before the majesty of their countenances, or be petrified by the quickness of their lips.—Charles R. Miller, in the May Forum.

The allusion to Webster is unfortunate. We doubt if a man ever sat in the senate whose teachings invoke a greater distrust of English diplomacy than do those of Daniel Webster. Webster would have been the last man on earth to vote blindly to ratify a treaty with England as drawn up, on the one side, by a greenhorn secretary of state, and on the other by one of the slickest diplomats in the British service.

There is nothing especially new in the disclosures of gross inhumanity in the treatment of insane convicts in the Eastern penitentiary, except that this time the evidence cannot be brushed away by an airy denial. The whole theory of confining the insane in ordinary jails is wrong, and the state which deals thus carelessly with its unfortunates is hardly entitled to be called civilized.

In the opinion of the Washington Post, the more Mr. Cleveland's speech of a week ago is "analyzed and understood, the better for the prospects of a wholesome and virile and stalwart party issue in 1898—an issue in which Mugwumpism and conservatism and groveling idolatry will play no part whatever." Then by all means let that speech be studied.

King George's deposition of Premier Delyanov suggests that he needs to learn Lincoln's advice: "Never swap horses in the middle of a stream."

Let us hope that the new dispensation of harmony in Philadelphia will not become so thick that it will have to be knifed.

Spain's promises of reform in Cuba effectively disprove the assertion that the Spaniards have no sense of humor.

Maybe Buckenberger's braves would yet like to change the game.

Gossip at the Capital

Special Correspondence of The Tribune. Washington, April 28.—Ex-President Cleveland's speech at the Reform club dinner in New York last week is still being discussed by politicians here. Nearly everybody believes that Mr. Cleveland is looking forward to a renomination for president in 1898. All the speeches at the dinner in New York last week are still being discussed by politicians here. Nearly everybody believes that Mr. Cleveland is looking forward to a renomination for president in 1898. All the speeches at the dinner in New York last week are still being discussed by politicians here. Nearly everybody believes that Mr. Cleveland is looking forward to a renomination for president in 1898.

Representative Richardson, of Tennessee, says that he has no doubt that Cleveland is already preparing to secure the nomination in 1898. "As soon as he was out of office before," said Mr. Richardson, "a plan of campaign was organized in his behalf. Although his nomination, when it came, seemed to be the result of a popular wave in his favor, the fact is that there is a strong feeling against him, stimulated by articles in the country press and by literature sent out by mail, both emanating from a headquarters in New York. His friends have plenty of money and the same organization is at his disposal today." Mr. Richardson does not believe, of course, that this campaign can be made effective under the conditions which now exist in the regular Democratic party. There is a feeling among some of the Democrats, however, that Mr. Cleveland has been misled by the gold faction. "This is the view of 'Silver Dick' Brand," says Mr. Brand. "Cleveland has been nominated, and he will be, but not by the Democratic party, which will remain true to the principles declared at Chicago last spring. He will be the candidate of a strictly non-partisan in its purpose and inspiration. It contemplates a result of universal value and importance. It can be acted on without raising the question of the appointment of any committee, and therefore without broaching the smallest issue of house discipline. The country wants a bankruptcy law. Every lawful and substantial interest would be promoted by the enactment of one.

SAY THE OTHER FIVE.

From the Washington Post. The editor of the Boston Herald says there are only eight thinking newspapers in the United States. The editors of the Herald could have saved our contemporaries considerable confusion and guessing by naming the other six.

WANT ANOTHER CHANCE.

From the Washington Post. Up to the present time the list of persons who were named as competitors for the nomination of the Democratic party in 1898 is as follows: Mr. Jim Corbett, Mr. Demaris, Mr. William Jennings Bryan, and Mr. Grover Cleveland.

delegates for him. Of course it is too early for the same kind of work to be begun again, and I am sure, after all that has happened, that Adams will be found very fertile soil in which to plant the seed. That it will be commenced, I have no doubt whatever. I should not wonder if Cleveland hopes to gather to himself the "wreck" of democracy, because they are by themselves, representing nobody and unable to influence a single vote. I have no doubt, in my mind, that Mr. Cleveland or his friends are desirous to have him nominated in 1898, but they will certainly not be successful, if they hope to have him elected by the head of the Democracy. He will never be in the ranks of our party again.

There can be no misunderstanding of the policy of Pension Commissioner Evans. He is for the old soldier every time, and he is not afraid to so declare. At a Grand Army meeting on Tuesday, Mr. Evans made a speech. Among other things, he said, "In my official position I find myself confronted by grave responsibilities. But I want to say I shall endeavor to do my duty to the old soldiers. I am not here to send out spies through the land to see how I can prevent giving pensions to old soldiers, the men who saved the nation. I want to grant to them such pensions as the law allows. We do not want any hair splitting over these cases, but at the same time we do not want the machine to run away with us, as a public servant I shall strive to do my duty both by the government and my old comrades, with a full appreciation of the responsibilities involved in the performance."

The chief clerk of the Treasury department was a big man when Logan Curdrie held the job. Logan, it is well remembered by many, was almost the whole thing, and anything he wanted that he didn't already have, he got. In fact, it is in this way it came about that all correspondence of the Treasury department, all the official letters prepared in the various bureaus for the signature of the secretary or assistant secretaries, had to pass through the chief clerk's hands. Secretary Chase has changed this, and the chief clerk no longer exercises a supervision over matters which properly belong to the assistant secretaries or to the secretary himself.

Ex-Representative Pickler, of South Dakota, who was turned down for commissioner of pensions and also for commissioner of Indian affairs, is still looking after a job. It is said that he can have a foreign berth which would suit him well enough financially, but he still has an eye on the United States senate, and when Mr. Pettigrew's turn comes around for chief clerk of the senate, he will find the strongest kind of an opponent in ex-Representative Pickler. In fact, it is whispered with considerable frequency that part of the effort of coalition between Republicans and Independents in South Dakota, which resulted in the re-election of Senator Kyle, is to be followed at the proper time by the defeat of Pickler and the promotion of Pickler. In the meantime a government position not incompatible with his dignity is desirable, but it is desirable to go ahead, for that would not give him sufficient opportunity to keep in touch with the people of his own state and before they give their candid support to the United States senate.

1.—Anna Dickinson decides to throw off the extra 1 cent recently awarded by the jury and be content with 6 cents damage.

2.—Joseph Church and Chief Robling quarrel Adams' case from the Bullshear watering trough.

3.—Light breaks through the intellectual trough of coalition between Republicans and Independents in South Dakota, which resulted in the re-election of Senator Kyle, is to be followed at the proper time by the defeat of Pickler and the promotion of Pickler. In the meantime a government position not incompatible with his dignity is desirable, but it is desirable to go ahead, for that would not give him sufficient opportunity to keep in touch with the people of his own state and before they give their candid support to the United States senate.

4.—The music of the lawn mower is not heard on Court House square.

5.—Several supposed slated candidates discover that some one has been using a damp sponge.

6.—Dan Hart has been commissioned by Mr. Bogart to write a play entitled "Woes of Jay Base Ball Association."

7.—Chairman Jennings orders the cages of the Democratic menagerie repaired for the summer campaign.

8.—The time of the season is relaxed by Mr. Stillwell.

9.—Ghosts of the Druids walk about the Frithingsham.

10.—Army Knocks says that "Good Things of the Week" come slow.

11.—Base Ball stock shows signs of gilt along the edge.

12.—Cuban war correspondents pause for breath.

13.—Trolley parties are ripe.

14.—Jack Neat claims that it is no longer necessary to yell at Athletic park.

15.—Five unchallenged voters are discovered in Dunmore.

16.—Professor Colos predicts that the Wilkes-Barre hucksterery crop will be a failure.

17.—The Handley executors receive first prize for architectural taste in remodeling buildings.

18.—Board of health warns the public against picking dogwood blossoms during the hydrophobia scare.

19.—Stephen Crane awakens from hypnotic sleep.

20.—Mayor Bailey decides to write an essay entitled, "How I Pleas'd Everybody."

21.—The state legislature refuses to pass a bill prohibiting the sale of apple blossom tea on Memorial Day.

22.—Chairman Nealis ascertains that there are other pebbles on the beach.

23.—P. W. Gallagher discovers that he is ineligible for the welter-weight class in the "wreckery" festivals to be served the real thing.

24.—Mulberry street is paved with good intentions.

25.—Druggists report large sale of throat lozenges to Memorial Day orators.

26.—Politics and patriotism collide.

27.—Palmer, why of making the Scranton club are economizing in personal expenses.

28.—Not on record.

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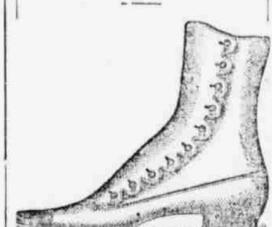
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