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SCRANTON, MAY 14, 1897.

We regret the necessity for having to scold common council; but in view of its course, what else can it expect?

The Saturday Tribune.

The Tribune tomorrow will be another magnificent sixteen-page paper, interesting as to contents, and attractive in appearance. In addition to Mr. Foote's admirable prize story, it will contain a selection of letters of travel and description and a fund of instructive miscellany which, added to the regular news, literary and editorial departments, will round out a number of exceptional merit. It is our aim to produce on Saturdays a paper fit to be taken into the home circle for reading at spare moments on Saturday and Sunday. That there is a field in this community for such a journal is shown in the rapidity with which the circulation of the Saturday Tribune is increasing. Last week, notwithstanding that an unusually large edition was put on the press, every copy was sold before 8 o'clock in the morning. Tomorrow, we hope to have a sufficient supply to meet all demands, but the safe plan for newsdealers and agents is to order extra copies in advance.

No reasonable man will object because the president wishes to be absolutely sure of his ground before taking up the Cuban matter. But it would be unfair to the will of the people to delay action one moment longer than necessary.

Indefensible.

It is most decidedly not to the credit of the Pennsylvania legislature that it should virtually have killed the Hamilton good roads bill by superadding to it an amendment indefinitely postponing the date at which the measure is to become effective. It is impossible to believe, in the face of the overwhelming expression of public opinion which has been made in favor of this bill, that the legislature's course with reference to it has been other than wantonly negligent. As in the matter of libel reform, a large percentage of the membership of the state house of representatives has seemed to go counter to the course of manifest wisdom and justice solely through inherent perversity. The constituents of these members will be false to their own interests in future if they do not hold them to a strict accounting.

The gentleman from Susquehanna, Mr. Moore, who offered the amendment that took the life out of the bill, has taken the pains to explain that his action was prompted not by malice but by kindness. It is to be wished that Mr. Moore had gone enough further in his apologetic excursion to make clear how kindness for the good roads movement could have dictated an amendment which bids fair to set that movement back at least two years. If it be his notion that the farmers in his district are opposed to the Hamilton bill, how does he account for the strong support which that measure has received from the agricultural element in all other parts of the commonwealth? If, on the other hand, he is conscientiously opposed to efforts to improve upon the rut-strewn dirt thoroughfares of the days of his grandfathers, why does he not have the frankness to declare himself openly and courageously, and not pose as the friend of the movement whose only evidenced work is that of manifest unfriendliness?

We are free to confess that we have quite lost patience with that conception of the legislative function nowadays so common which considers propositions for the public welfare not from the standpoint of their real utility but in a spirit of sheer contrariness. It is about time for the friends of good roads in Pennsylvania to get their fighting boots on and to go after the smart solons who blockade progress in this direction for no other conceivable reason than that it projects them into transient public attention.

The Scranton public is assured of a treat in the lecture which Colonel George Nox McCain will deliver this evening in the Penn Avenue Baptist church. Colonel McCain's description of Venezuela, its natural peculiarities and interesting people, is not only vivid but decidedly instructive; and it will merit the attendance and attention of every Scrantonian interested in our South American neighbors.

Why Not a Balkan Empire?

Among the possibilities growing out of the Graeco-Turkish war that which probably gives most concern to the European diplomatists is the likelihood of a Balkan alliance, that is, an offensive and defensive compact among Servia, Roumania, Bulgaria and Montenegro. The fact that these states, upon whom Greece depended for help in her onslaught upon the common Turkish foe, held back as if in concert for ulterior ends, gives color to the surmise that important negotiations may be in progress among them. A complete political union is unlikely at this time. The powers would at once prevent or disrupt it. But closer harmony and an unwritten law of unified action in affairs relating to the Porte are at least possible, and should these conditions materialize it would have an important bearing on future European politics.

Should these four principalities be merged into one, that one would have an area of nearly 100,000 square miles, or about equal to Spain; a population of nearly 15,000,000, or greater than that or Brazil; and an effective fighting force of over 400,000 officers and men. It would control one of Europe's most fertile grain fields, would bring together some of the hardiest racial stock in the world and could go in to the business of confederated government almost in freedom from debt. A Balkan confederation might not be able to resist Russia unaided, should Russia undertake to force the sovereignty of the czar upon it, but it could give the bear a lively tussle, and could make short work of the Ottoman empire. Such a confederation may be only a dream of the far future, but it is not more improbable now than was confederated Germany a decade before Bismarck began to pull the strings for its consummation.

The main obstacle appears to be that the Balkans lack a Bismarck.

The esteemed Times makes a desperate attempt to justify the course of the Democrats in common council in wantonly tying up the city appropriations; but it must understand that there is a difference between reasonable amendment and purely factional pique. In the last estimates committee the Republicans had a majority and by every rule of fairness were entitled to impress their views upon the appropriation ordinances. The trickery of the last common body in killing that ordinance by a parliamentary ruse exhibited flagrant disregard for the general welfare of the city, and the entire course of the present majority in the lower branch has been on the same pleayune level. What may have occurred years ago is not to the point. It is the present of which we are speaking. The Republican select council never yet tied the city finances into a knot.

Two Lessons from the Past.

The departure of Mr. Calhoun for Cuba, under a special mission to report the true situation in that unhappy island to the president, for his guidance in the adoption of a Cuban policy, recalls to a correspondent of the New York Sun two previous missions of similar import. In 1810, while Buenos Ayres was in revolt against Spanish domination, President Madison dispatched Joel Poinsett as a special agent to the seat of the revolution, with the following instructions, drawn by Secretary of State, afterward President, Monroe:

As a crisis is approaching which must produce great changes in the situation of Spanish America and may dissolve altogether its colonial relations to Europe, and as the geographical position of the United States and other obvious considerations give them an intimate interest in whatever may affect the destiny of that part of the American continent, it is our duty to turn our attention to this important subject and to take such steps not incompatible with the neutral character and honest policy of the United States as the occasion renders proper. With this view, you have been selected to proceed without delay to Buenos Ayres. You will make it your object, wherever it may be proper, to diffuse the impression that the United States cherish the sincerest good will toward the people of Spanish America as neighbors, as belonging to the same portion of the globe and as having a mutual interest in cultivating friendly intercourse; that this disposition will exist whatever may be their internal system or European relation, with respect to which no interference of any sort is projected, and that, in the event of a political separation from the parent country and of the establishment of an independent system of national government, it will coincide with the sentiments and policy of the United States to promote the most friendly relations and the most liberal intercourse between the inhabitants of this hemisphere, as having all a common interest and as lying under a common obligation to maintain that system of peace, justice, and good will which is the only source of happiness for nations.

Two years later Venezuela declared its independence from Spain and started to battle for freedom. The United States promptly recognized the Venezuelans as belligerents and President Madison sent Alexander Scott to Caracas with these instructions:

A principal motive in delaying to recognize in greater form the independence of the government of Venezuela proceeds from a desire to ascertain how far those provinces are competent to its support; by which is to be understood the intelligence of the people, and their union and decided in its favor. If the people are resolved to maintain their independence, their success seems to be inevitable. You will be sensible that the United States cannot fail to take a deep interest in the establishment of a republican government in those provinces, from a belief that the people will be happier under it, and the greater confidence which must exist in consequence of it between us.

It will be noticed that while these two letters of instruction contained no word that could be construed as unfriendly to Spain, they were distinct in their expressions of sympathetic interest for the success of the republican movement, and between the lines they disclosed the genesis of the policy now regarded as sacred by every true American—the Monroe doctrine. In each case the South American republicans triumphed and it was American recognition and encouragement that helped them to do it. In Cuba today a war for freedom is being waged, and for two years we have made no official effort to ascertain the facts, but in the face of gross outrages known to have been practiced by the Spanish soldiery and officials upon American citizens in Cuba and at great cost to American property in that island, this government has policed the seaboard cities and patrolled the seas in order to aid Spain in prolonging an unnatural sway.

It is proper that this era of disreputable indifference should be halted, and the machinery set in motion for eventual action in the interest of humanity, Americanism and civilization.

Senator Quay's conception of civil service reform appears to be more or less synonymous with civil service repeal, so far as the Cleveland pattern is concerned; and we guess he is about right.

The question raised in the New York courts as to whether the Salvation army is a nuisance depends for its answer on the point of view. Satan would probably hold that it is.

Now let the Turk turn around and drive out the five "Christian" powers, and all will be forgiven.

The bill introduced on Wednesday at Harrisburg prohibiting the playing of base ball or foot ball on Sunday, under penalty of $25 fine or imprisonment for ten days, is a sensible proposition which ought to pass. The enactment and enforcement of such a statute would impose a wholesome influence upon the rising generation.

Turkey's demand upon Greece for $15,000,000 indemnity might just as well be multiplied by ten, as far as any prospect of getting it is concerned. Greece could with difficulty pay $15.

Paul Kruger might with profit study the sad example of King George.

Gossip at the Capital

Special Correspondence of The Tribune.
Washington, May 13.

I have taken considerable pains within the last few weeks to find out, by careful inquiry among members of the house who have been at their homes, to what extent it is probable the silver issue will intrude into the state campaigns of this year. You know members of the house are not oppressed just now with the big affairs of statecraft, and have time to think of home politics, and even to bestow an occasional glance at the manner in which this or that issue may affect their personal ambition, though, of course, every good congressman thinks of himself last and least.

The result of my inquiries is all the more interesting on account of a report sent broadcast that the silver issue would be the issue above all others in the Ohio elections, upon the conclusion of which the return of Mark Hanna to the senate depends. To sum up the substantial portions of the replies to many questions it may be said that the assertion is quite general that while free coinage will be talked of more or less, candidates will not be nominated with reference especially to their silver views, and lines will not be drawn upon that question. The feeling of the Democratic leaders may be well expressed in the words of one of the chiefest of them.

"It would be folly," said this eminent silver Democrat, "to attempt to intrude the money question into state or local politics in this off year. The people feel just as strongly on the subject as they did last year, but it would do no good to mix it up with local and state questions. The policy of the Democratic party at this time is to wait the failure of the Republican policy. You may think that is not great statesmanship, but it is the statesmanship of all history, or, at least, the history of popular government. There is no use of denying that the politicians of all parties make extravagant promises in regard to the benefits likely to accrue from the success of their respective principles. Probably never before were promises more extravagant than last year. I do not believe the success of the Democrats would have brought the prosperity promised in the event of the adoption by the country of the free coinage idea. To begin with, the passage of a free coinage bill would have been doubtful, or the result only of a prolonged struggle. But we were not successful, and the Republicans were, and it is the Republicans and not the Democrats who must make good the lies of the campaign. I am really jubilant that it is their job, and not ours. I believe, however, that if we had succeeded, and had been able to enact a free coinage bill without delay, thus doubling at once to increase the circulating medium of the country, we would have been in better position than are our Republican friends, who are not only finding it difficult to pass their tariff bill, as a result of which they have promised prosperity, but are quarrelling among themselves and accusing each other of being dilapidated by trusts, and are throwing mud between the house and the senate in the most unparalleled and frightful manner. To hear the opinion of the leaders of the house in regard to the leaders of the senate one would think the latter wore a set of thorns, and I suppose the opinion of the senate leaders in regard to the house leaders is equally pleasant and complimentary. With this condition of affairs we shall try to win fall elections as far as we can on local and state reform issues, and upon the growing discontent with the action and inaction of the Republican leaders in congress. We shall simply do all we can to strengthen our lines for the congressional contests of next year. That will be sufficient, and I have not the least doubt that we will elect a sweeping majority of the house and make a gain of one or two members of the senate, which body we really control at this time."

That was really a delightful little comedy that was enacted in the president's room a day or two ago, when a delegation of Utah "magnates" called to urge the president to be present at the celebration in July, at Salt Lake City, of the "pioneer jubilee" of Utah. The president, quite safely, promised to consider the invitation favorably, provided the tariff bill were out of the way by that time. Looking around upon the company present, he said:

"By the way, there is nearly a quorum of the senate present. Gentlemen of the senate, what do you think about it?"

"I don't see why we should not dispose of the tariff bill within six days after we get at it," said Senator Pettigrew solemnly.

"Oh, we'll rush the bill right through, after the 15th," said Cannon.

"I don't see any reason why we should not finish up everything and adjourn by the first of July," said Cullom, with that profound seriousness for which the wearer of the mantle of Abraham Lincoln is noted.

The president smiled, the senators smiled, the delegation from Utah smiled, and all were still smiling when the president bowed the company of comedians out of his door.

"The decision of the Supreme court of the United States is treated to the Bertner patents," said a noted public man to me today, "forcibly reminds me of the remark of a famous general that Providence is always on the side of the largest and best equipped armies. The Supreme court, being next to Providence in this great country of ours, is always on the side of the big corporations, therefore the big corporations are always right. Yes, I know, the court decided in a way against railway pooling, but the law was explicit in that case, and the decision will simply result in a change of the law by congress. I do not mean to throw the least doubt on the integrity of the court, I am with the great and virtuous Dr. Depew in that. I am sorry, however, that this unbending integrity induced the court to make a decision that deprived the people of the whole country from the free use of the telephone for another term of years, all on account of the shrewd tactics of that wonderful corporation which manipulated its patents for this very purpose. By the way, did you notice the curious recovery of Bell telephone stock in the market after a period of depression? Just about the time when it was known that it had come to be known that the court was nearly ready to announce its decision, the stock began to rise, and within the last day or two previous to the promulgation of the opinion it fairly jumped. It does seem to me that the eminent justices should be more careful in regard to the young men they employ as their private secretaries."

The new secretary of agriculture is certainly the most comprehensive and universal gentleman who has ever held down a chair in the department of pumpkins. He has just issued two "brochures," one entitled "Dietary Studies in New Mexico" and the other "Dietary Studies of the Negro in Alabama." It seems to be a dominating economy with him to discover how little a human being needs for the maintenance of life, rather than to discover how plenty of food of the very best kind can be placed within the reach of all. It has been suggested to the secretary that he direct his "scientists" to devote a pamphlet to "Dietary Studies of congressmen and cabinet officers at Washington."

Speaking of the important matter of congressional alimentation, a famous congressman the other day invited one of his visiting constituents, an office-seeker, of course, to luncheon with him in the senate restaurant.

"What will you eat?" said the statesman.

"Oh, any old thing will suit me," said the O. S.

"Well, give your order. Nothing is too good for you, you know."

"Well," said the O. S., remembering that he had no end of favors to ask of the statesman, "just give me a sandwich and a cup of coffee."

"Is that really all you want?"

"That's all."

"Well, waiter, you may fetch me some green turtle soup at once, and then a nice plate of lamb fries, one of your incomparable shrimp salads, new Bermuda potatoes, with cream dressing; raw sliced tomatoes, covered with crushed ice; a few stalks of fat asparagus, and just a glass of sauterne. And, waiter, you may put a small bottle of Clicquot on ice for me."

It is unnecessary to say that the O. S. hugely enjoyed his ham sandwich and cup of coffee.

This may be supplemented with a little story told by Colonel Joe Johnston, who has been a postoffice inspector for long years, and is an old chum of Dockery, of Missouri.

The other day, after dinner at Willards, the two stopped to the cigar stand to get what is indispensable to every true Missourian.

"Let's have some of the kind of cigars Dockery always smokes," said Colonel Johnston. "Here, Dockery, take one, and put two or three in your pocket," added the colonel, with much exhibition of conscious liberality.

Dockery availed himself of the treat, but without great enthusiasm.

"Now," said the colonel to the man of cigars, and beaming with comfortable feeling, "give me some good cigars for myself."

The treat to something else was on Dockery.

SHE LEARNED THE LESSON.

It sometimes happened that the mother leaves Lucile and baby Marion to keep house for themselves, the maid being in the distant regions of the kitchen. All has gone well, but if the door bell rings Lucile always opens the door and says "Come in." The mother came home one day, however, and found her babies entertaining a doubtful looking soap canvasser. She talked seriously to her small daughter, telling her that she must never admit a stranger when mamma was out, and for want of better reasons told her that someone might come in and would steal something. Lucile listened to it all and nodded soberly.

It was afternoon of the very next day that the mother left them for ten minutes, and within that ten minutes two lady friends walked up the steps to make a call. Lucile opened the door just a little way and stood with the knob held stoutly in her hand. She did not wait for them to speak.

"I can't ask you to come in," she said, "'cause my mamma said you might steal something."

BROSIU'S STORY OF STEVENS.

From the Washington Post.

"A great many stories have been told about my distinguished predecessor, Thaddeus Stevens, whose district I have the honor to represent," said Mr. Brosius, of Pennsylvania, yesterday, "but here is one that is new to me."

"Stevens was championing some bill in congress which aroused the opposition of the combined Southern members. He made a brilliant speech in favor of it and equally brilliant speeches were made on the other side, and the upshot of it was that Stevens was outvoted after a very bitter and pendenate partisan debate.

"Stevens was still boiling with disappointment and bitterness, when Toombs, of Georgia, in a taunting way, asked him:

"Well, how do you feel over your defeat?"

"Feel?" snapped back Stevens, 'feel? I feel like the poor man at the rich man's gate, who was licked by the dogs."

OIL ON TROUBLED WATERS.

From the Olyphant Record.

The police of Scranton are as humane a body of men as can be found in the country, but they are human and liable to errors. But as long as there is in the Electric City as vigilant an organ as the Scranton Tribune, they must expect their mistakes to be corrected and rebuked. The force is to be congratulated that so few misdemeanors can be laid to its charge, and the people ought to be proud of the vigilant Tribune. It ever looks after the interests of the people.

TOLD BY THE STARS.

Daily Horoscope Drawn by Ajacchus, The Tribune Astrologer.

Astrolabe cast: 1.16 a. m., for Friday, May 14, 1897.

A child born on this day will notice that the fellow who sits down and yells "hard times" is generally overtaken by disaster first.

The wise land boomer dependeth not solely upon the brass band for inspiration when the columns of good newspapers are available.

It is only when a man is in love that a magnifying glass is necessary for him to perceive the freckles on the countenance of his best girl.

"Nothing ventured, nothing gained" does not mean that one should spend his spare moments "chucking" dice for beer and bed cigars.

Washington pie is the latest Philadelphia delicacy. Of course it is made of cherries.

Attention is called to the fact that cucumbers and colic both begin with C.

It is always difficult for advance agents of prosperity to find the men with disordered livers.

Songs of Spring.

Ye shortcake season cometh. Now
Of berries red doth savor
The boarding house pate; and fruit
Tart's dried hath lost its flavor.

TEMPTATION.

Of all the insidious
Temptations invidious
Contrived by the devil for pulling men down,
There is no more delusive,
Seductive, abusive,
Than the scare to a man with his wife out town.
He feels such delightfulness,
Stay-out-all-night-fulness,
Sure-to-get-tight-fulness,
I own it with pain.
A bachelor rakishness,
What-will-you-take-ishness
None can explain.
His wife may be beautiful,
Tender and dutiful,
'Tis not that her absence could cause him delight;
But the cute'st opportunity,
Baleful temptunity,
Scatter his scruples as day scatters night.
—Detroit Tribune.

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Printed Foulards in black and blue grounds, new designs, at 25c
Fancy Jap and India Silks, light colors for fancy waists, at 29c
Double Warp Changeable Silk, very popular combinations, 50c
All Silk Brocaded Satins at 59 cents

DRESS GOODS

Some of the good things offered at our great sale of Dress Fabrics.

34 Inch Mixed Suitings, 12 1-2 cents
36 Inch Fancy Wool and Silk and Wool Checks and Mixtures, 25 cents
50 pieces of the latest 38 inch Novelties at 39 cents
Separate Dress Patterns of Silk and Wool, Parisian Novelties, at 50 cents.
Most of our $1 and $1.25 Fine Fancies reduced to 75 cents.

Don't lose sight of our GREAT CLOSING OUT CARPET SALE. We have already saved the public thousands of dollars this season, and are still in position to save you a good many more dollars.

FINLEY'S

Special Sale of Lace Curtains

We offer this week, to reduce stock, extraordinary values in Curtains:

40 pairs Nottingham Lace, 69c. a pair; from 85c.
30 pairs Nottingham Lace, 88c. a pair; from $1.10.
18 pairs Nottingham Lace, $1.15 a pair; from $1.37½.
20 pairs Nottingham Lace, $1.28 a pair; from $1.75.
15 pairs Nottingham Lace, $1.65 a pair; from $2.00.
12 pairs Nottingham Lace, $1.95 a pair; from $2.35.
20 pairs Irish Point, ecru and white, $3.75 a pair; from $4.50.
10 pairs Irish Point, ecru and white, $4.55 a pair; from $5.50.
12 pairs Irish Point, ecru and white, $5.50 a pair; from $6.25.
10 pairs Irish Point, ecru and white, $6.50 a pair; from $7.50.
10 pairs Irish Point, ecru and white, $8.37½ a pair; from $10.00.
12 pairs Brussels Net, $5.50 a pair; from $6.75.
12 pairs Brussels Net, $6.75 a pair; from $7.85.
12 pairs Brussels Net, $7.75 a pair; from $9.25.
12 pairs Brussels Net, $8.50 a pair; from $10.00.
12 pairs Brussels Net, $10.25 a pair; from $12.00.

Also special prices on Tamboured Muslins. An inspection will convince you that it is to your interest to purchase now.

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Sweeping reduction in all lines to save moving stock, on account of extensive alterations on our first and second floors. Now is the time to buy

China, Glassware, Bric-a-Brac, Lamps, Silverware and Household Goods, Cheap.

Economical housekeepers will do well to attend this sale.

Two 15-feet Black Walnut Counters and 120 feet of good Shelving for sale cheap.

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Can't wear Ready-Made Clothes?

You can if they are the Boyle and Mucklow kind. Try it. Scores of the best dressed men in town wear them—and they like them.

BOYLE & MUCKLOW,
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We have placed on sale today one thousand four hundred pairs of Ladies' Russet Shoes, all widths, from B to E, on the Philadelphia Toe. They are good value for $1.25. Our price while they last will be

50c. a pair.

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