## the Scranton tribane

By The Tribune Publishing Company WILLIAM CONNELL, President.

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SCRANTON, AUGUST 11, 1897. In other words, spare the rod and

### spoil the ball club. Good Times Already Here.

Last week's stock sales amounted at New York to 2,845,664 shares, a record without recent precedent. Twenty leading rallway stocks have risen in eleven weeks from an average quotable value of \$49 a share to \$62. At the same time, to use the words of one conservative reviewer, "a new face has crept over the whole commercial situation. It is not to be recognized beside the features made familiar through four years of depression. Despondency has everywhere given way to the most hopeful and sanguine feeling. Good crops are beginning to move at higher prices. Bank clearings outside the speculative centers reflect an increasing volume of trade. Railroad earnings are improving. The depressed iron and steel market has within the week reported the appearance of a new demand for products. Business failures for July give certain evidence of the change that has taken place. Dun's record in comparison with the same month in the three previous years is as

Number. Liabilities \$7,117,727 15,501,995 10,260,435 This represents a remarkable improve-

ment, particularly in comparison with last year, and supports the surface indications of a notable business revival." In the light of these facts the ques-

tion may be asked, "Why does not this improvement make itself immediately and wholly palpable to the average man doing business say in Scranton?" We answer that it is being felt, and we call the business men of the city to witness. The mines are working steadily now for the first time this year. The steel mills are active. Hardly a small factory or shop is without its quota of orders. If past losses could be sponged out of the way by magic we should feel more prosperity than in debts which have been accumulating that causes us yet in some measure to feel the pinch. In other words, while it is easy to get in debt and not difficult at the bank, it takes time and patience up another surplus for a future rainy

But there is no short cut through this inevitable and wholesome period of liquidation. The credits secured during the hard times must be made good. The debts contracted when work was slack and money scarce, in order that the wolf might be kept from the door, must be paid ere the average man will feel at liberty to "blow himself." The little account in the bank, depleted for the same reason, must be restored. These things take time. Prosperity is already here. Money is even now getting a move on. But it cannot cause a boom and no sensible man would want it to.

If this thing keeps up, the London press will soon have to take something to relieve that John Sherman feeling.

## The Crisis in Spain.

The effect which the assassination of Spain's prime minister, Serior Canovas, will have upon the Cuban problem remains a theme of general speculation. not only in this country but throughout Europe. The opinion seems to be general that there will not be found a Conservative leader capable of cementing the various factions of that party and that in the end the queen regent will be compelled to tender the premiership to the leader of the Liberals, Senor Sagasta. For a score of years he and Canovas were the two great statesmen of Spain who, although representing opposing parties, often playsed into each other's hands. Those best qualified to predict say that the death of Canovas inevitably projects Sagasta.

That the great Liberal is not anxious to accept the peculiar responsibilities of the position of premier at this time may be inferred from his remark of yesterday, when he declared, with a suggestion of melodrama, that his country's politics must not depend on an asassination, and added that the Conservatives ought to remain in power, While it appeals as we would say to the gallieries, this sententious deliverance is nevertheless entirely true. The Conservative party of Spain, as fashioned by Canovas, is responsible for the colonial policy which has turned Cuba into a shambles, which has nurtured Weylerism and which now stands for all that is repugnant in the relationship of colonists to the central government, It is the party which has sown the wind; and by every rule of justice it is the party which should reap the whirl-

To a man like Senor Sagasta power at this juncture would mean simply work and worry without the slightest prospect of reward. Had he been called to the premiership two or three years carlier, his modern ideas of a proper colonial relationship for Cuba might have averted the present revolution and saved the many millions of treasure and the prestige lost by Spain in the ensuing interval. But now the progress of Cuba toward Independence has reached too advanced a stage to justify expectations of a reconciliation, and it will become the sad duty of the successor of Canovas to let Cuba go, either with or without the receipt of a nominal

equivalent. It is interesting to note in this connection the revival of talk in well-informed circles in Washington that Spain may pick a quarrel with the ting out of Cuba without precipitating who thus obtains money, whether in tory who thinks so. There are battles we should say: yet to be won; but they are being fought.

by trustworthy Washington correspondents that this theory as to Spain's ultimate intentions prevalls among the leading officials of our government, from the president down. A change in ministries might induce the abandonment or it might effect the culmination oncur in the opinion of the St. Louis Globe-Democrat, expressed a few days igo, that it would be a long time before Spain would solicit a repetition of the reatment.

The wonder occasioned by the accident to Mr. Kerr is not that he was hurt but that, with scorching and riding on sidewalks so general in Scranton, and so utterly ignored by the authorities, accidents of that kind are so few. We can thank no one but Providence for our past immunity in this respect.

### The Peril of Base Ball.

Public Ledger of that city says: "Base ball is in danger of being dethroned as a favorite national game. It still has a strong hold on popular favor, but the interest is not nearly so intense as it was, and it is clearly and rapidly waning. There is a wide and growing suspicion that the games are not being played or decided on their merits, but are being won or lost by methods discreditable to all concerned. If this suspicion becomes a certainty in the public mind the popularity of base ball will be over, or at least seriously impaired for some time to come. It must be regretfully admitted that the point of conviction is rapidly being reached." The Ledger then cites the remark of an umpire that the home club must win to draw a paying audience; that if it could not do so by superior playing, he must help with his decisions; and it concludes by demanding a more equitable and orderly system of umpiring. We know nothing with reference to tained in the Ledger's opening words; it may be true in the National league although we doubt it. It certainly is there is danger that the national game will fall into disfavor unless it shall soon be rescued from the disorderly features which lately seem to characterize it as never before. A week has not passed this season in the big league without bringing into print an account of some umpire mobbed or goaded into an attack upon a player or a specof workmen and its normal volume tator; and even in the exceptionally well conducted Eastern league there has been more disturbance than was necessary. Added to this, players have years; it is the catching up with old exercised a license on and off the diamond not good either for them or for during the four long years just ended the game. It would seem, in brief, that ordinary business prudence had for a time deserted a good many of the men concerned pecuniarily in maintainto exhaust the little balance saved up Ing base ball high in the favor of the people. Whether this is a consequence to get out of debt again, and to hoard of the general demoralization incident to dull times or of the malign influence of the stars, or of the "crime of '73," or something else, it is unfortunate for all concerned, and requires speedy correction and amendment if the game is

It is growing plain that William Jennings Bryan will need to get a new issue and a new set of advisers, or else give up political ambition. The logic of events is going directly against him.

## A Populist in Error.

Dr. C. F. Taylor, the Populist nominee for auditor general of Pennsylvania, is circulating a document the purport of which is that if a working man had begun 1900 years ago to accumulate a million dollors, saving one dollar each secular day, and not allowing for interest; and if his life were miraculously prolonged to complete the task, he would today have only \$591,898, or less than sixty per cent. of the desired million. Dr. Taylor asks in conclusion, "What shall we say to those who obtain not only one million but many millions in the few years of the adult period of a single life?" What we shall say ought to depend

wholly upon the circumstances. If a boy who with a few dollars saved from wages purchases a sack of raw peanuts and a roaster and opens a peanut stand, selling his goods at a profit, should later find himself able to start another peanut stand and then two others and afterward four others and so on in geometrical ratio it is easily conceivable that he could in a camparatively short time acquire a million dollars, the last dollar of which would ome to him quite as honestly as the first. That is how many of our large fortunes are accumulated- not, perhaps, with peanuts but on the principle underlying the peanut illustration. If the owner of one peanut stand finds that another person is likely to start an opposition stand near him, and to prevent it sells roasted peanuts at or below cost for a time, or until the would-be rival is run out of the business, we have precisely the principle which our Populist friends condemnnot, indeed, in the peanut business, but in the parallel case of the Standard Oil company for example, whose vast business was built up by just such methods, and with the result of a continually lowered selling price of kerosene oil. The millions of Mr. Rockafeller have been won along the same line and in obedience to the same trade laws that have governed the supposititious peanut vender in his accumulation of pennies, nickles and dimes; if one is dishonest, so is the other; if one should be attacked by law the

other should by no means escape. On the other hand if a peanut vender gives short weight, palms off on his customers inferior stock by false representations or works a pull on councils or the street commissioner to secure a site for his stand on some public place to which he has no moral title but where he can increase his trade, we have precisely the same principles illustrated as in the case of the millionaire speculator who gains valuable franchise concessions without rendering a public equivalent and on the strength of such concessions organizes a figurehead corporation with inflated capital stock, which he proceeds to unload on unsuspecting people so as virtually to steal a million United States as the one means of get- or ten million dollars. To the man

'Make restitution where possible and go to jail." But we should say this as well to the peanut vender as to

the speculator in securities. In other words, if we have made our meaning clear, the import of Dr. Taylor's grievance because there are milof this plan; but if the latter, we lionaires is insufficiently qualified. Some millionaires are good men and some are rascals but in either event they are not by nature different from other men who measure their wealth by six figures, by five figures or by two. If it is morally wrong for any man to have a million, who shall say that it would be right for any other man to have a cent?

Hereafter, under the ballot haw as mended by the last legislature, only blank forms of nomination furnished by the secretary of the commonwealth are to be used. Under the new law certificates of nomination must be filed with the secretary of the common-In the course of an editorial devoted wealth at least 42 days before the day to the base ball problem as it exists of election and nomination papers at from a Philadelphia standpoint the least 35 days before election. Objections to the validity of nomination papers must be filed not only with the court of common pleas, but also in the office where the original papers were filed, at least thirty-five days before the election in the case of certificates of nomination filed in the office of the secretary of the commonwealth, and at least twenty-eight days in the case of nomination papers filed in his office. The court is required to hear and determine the objections at least sixteen days before the election. It might avert confusion if those concerned in political strife would bear these changes in mind.

The fact that the British association for the advancement of science is to meet at Toronto soon after the conclusion of the Detroit meeting of the American association, thus enabling the great scientists of both branches of the English speaking race to come together, has suggested the propriety the inference as to crookedness con- of organizing an international association which in its membership shall embody the world's best scientific scholarship. Should such be the outcome it not true in the Eastern league. But would be in obedience to one of the manifest tendencies of the times, Combinations are the order of the day; it is being recognized at last that in union is strength, and everywhere is civilization progressing toward universal brotherhood.

Detestable as are the ethics of the ssassin, the man who shot Canovas simply gave Spain a taste of the methods Spain has long employed in Cuba. From her own dislike of it she should

## realize how Cubans feel. Is Society Really Growing Wickeder?

A saturnine writer, who apparently has

nore respect for the inventions of the theologian than for those of the literary artist, tells the public, through the rather hide-bound Homiletic Review, that nevel reading is the source of the flippancy and dishonor and irresponsibility of modern ociety. His argument rests upon the is understood by him being of a theological type rather than scientific or actual. would replace the novel, with "scien theology and the Word of God." What he means by "scientific theology" is not clear. Logic may give us a system, but science deals with verifiable facts and not the postulates of faith. But aside from the meaningless phrase in question, to the love of fiction this sapient writer attributes the sensationalism of newspapers and the lack of "the public sense of fact, of reality, of truth." It may be observed here that the sense of reality—the quick recognition of fact and rompt adaptation to it when demonstrated—is one of the most conspicuous characteristics of the age. The spirit has both stimulated and has been stimulated y scientific, historical, archaeological and ociological investigation. It never was more dominant; it never made the human mind more judicial; it never influenced onscience and conduct more than it does today. Perhaps if theology had dealt and should deal less on metaphysical speculations, less in the realms of imaginative thinking concerning things dis-coverable only by authority, it might be more influential in modern times.

"A further effect" (of novel reading), ontinues the essavist, "is to be seen in the immense change that has taken place in the conduct of mankind in the various lepartments of life. Corruption in poli-ics and laxity in religion are instances n point. If there is no basis in reality, why should men live as though they were? Multitudes have answered this question to suit their natural desires, and are living accordingly. The change has been almost revolutionary. The world has almost lost all sense of truth and right, and of ideal character and conduct, and all sense of responsibility." This is the fruit, hen, of novel reading. And why not, too, of the study of poetry, much of which is equally fictitious—at least in its idyllic, peroic and epic branches? Are we to brand as corrupters of the public con-science. Thackeray, Dickens, Trollope, Hawthorne, Macdonald, Meredith, Hardy and Howells? See in their bad train the best cultivated of women go—Charlotte Bronte, Jane Austen, Maria Edgeworth, George Ellot, Mrs. Ward, Margaret De-land, Amelia Barr and Mrs. Oliphant? Surely the man must be sadly jaundiced who can set this group of splendid au-thors in such saffron and livid colors!

But the man's statements are not true, except in that a tolerably good-sized so-cial revolution is in progress. This is at-tributable to the progress of science, the emancipation of women, the fertility of invention and the greater humanity of preachers as to fiction reading. If con-temporaneous events be related as cause and effect, the misogynist on equal grounds may charge our social evils to he larger place now occupied by women n industrial and general life.

The revolution we are unlergoing is not for the worse, but for the better. Professor McMaster has written that there is no political vice of the day that our venerated ancestors did not understand and excel in. Bribery and corruption were the avowed basis of Robert Walpole's party system. General Sickles has told us of his observations of the drunkenness, insolence, turbulence and gambling that went on in congress before he civil war. Even Tammany is more reputable than it was when Tweed and Wood controlled it. Bad as we still are. our election compaigns are less abusive than they were when the two Adamses were running for president. Never were our people less bound by mere considerations of party nor more loyal to prin-ciple than in this generation. Cleveland was first and Pattison twice elected governor in protest of boss leadership, and McKinley holds his present office through the revolt of men who preferred principle to party. In Great Britain political brib-ery and corruption have been extin-guished, and in this country large progguished, and in this country large prog-ress has been made in the same direction. As for licentiousness, there has not been a popular novelist for fifty years so ri-bald and obscene as were Fielding and Smollett, in whom our great-grandmoti. ers delighted. No; we are not going back-

The age is searching for fact and rising in morals by the process, and among the best servitors of the cause are the people who write our novels.

### ALASKA AS AN INVESTMENT.

H. S. Canfield in Times-Herald.

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Pretty nearly everybody knows what Alaska cost us. William H. Seward signed the treaty of annexation March 30, 1867. It was ratified on the 20th of June of that year and the territory was turned over to a force of United States soldiers on Oct. 2 at Sitka. The town was then called New Archangel. The price paid was \$7,200,000. The \$7,000,000 was for the land. It is not often that one hears what the \$200,000 was for. That sum went to Russian trading companies who had received concessions from their government. To them it was so much money picked up in the middle of the road, since it did not cost them anything, but they it did not cost them anything, but they were much out of pocket, all the same. Because of this there is grumbling about the Alaska sale in Russia to this day.
Often some fellow, whose father was a
fur trader, will get full of vodki and denounce the "crime of "il". Of course,
they have not heard of the "crime of "il". While the price paid for Alaska is generally known, few people are aware of the tremendous returns from the land of snow and seals. It has paid for itself many times over and its career as a revenue producer is in its infancy. The fact is that Alaska has given back more than its purchase price in whalebone alone. The returns from this article were \$7,000,-000 in 1890. They are now something like

Alaska has paid us to date \$103,000,000.
This enormous sum has been derived from furs, herring, salmen, cod, ivory, whalebone and gold. At the time of the whalebone and gold. At the time of the last census the United States had taken out \$76,000,000. Since then we have been enriched by \$27,000,000. Of this \$20,000,000 has been gold and the remainder from other products. These are giant figures, but they are the exact truth. The first actual settlement of that wonderful country will begin next spring. The sum total of what it will add to the world's wealth in the coming years passes conjecture. in the coming years passes conjecture. It will be a pile of money, mountainous

It is a singular fact that the existence of gold in quantities along the tributaries of the Yukon was known to a few men a century and a half ago. The truth has been held back by the fur trading companies. They were not after minerals and they feared the ruin of their industry. try, which was in itself a gold mine. Trappers, explorers and men who lived with the Indians were forbidden to tell what they knew on pain of death. The Russia Fur company did summarily shoot one man who grew excited with drink and blabbed. That death is still remem-bered in Alaska, having been passed from mouth to mouth, as is the manner of un lettered peoples. Other fur companies have done nothing to develop the country and have kept their lips scaled. They foresaw the effect of a torrent of immigration. Such things cannot be hidden however. The secret is out at last.

It is a prevalent idea that the Alaskan territory produces only gold and things of the sea, but this is wrong. Even in Klondike, which is far removed from the mollifying influences of the Japanese curmollifying influences of the Japanese current, hardy vegetables grow in profusion,
although cauliflower and asparagus will
not ripen. Hay is as high as a man's
head. When the country comes to be
better known it will be found capable of
making many things for humanity now
unthought of. Although, for some undiscoverable reason, reports have gone
abroad that there is no game, the fact
remains that there is plenty of it. Moose. remains that there is plenty of it. Moose, elk and cariboo, or the American rein-deer, abound. Every river is stocked with fish. No man should starve who has a hook and a flint-lock musket.

### THE CABINET AND CONGRESS.

From the Times-Herald.

Those who believe that our government would be strengthened and our legisla-tion be made more efficacious by allowing the heads of departments to help ernment, which is so divided that nobody can tell who is to blame. This desire for a more responsible government is accen-tuated by a study of the British system, where the premier and those who serve with him are selected by the house of commons, and where the members of the cabinet must go to the country and with the members of the house achieve victory or defeat. Between the English cabinet and house there is community of interest and community of danger.

In our government the only legal con-nection between the executive and heads of departments and the legislature, be tween the administration and the congress, is by written communications, stating plans and propositions, needs and re-quirements. It is contended by many that if heads of departments were given seats on the floor of the house and sen ate and the right to introduce bills and participate in debate the president would be able to gather about him the strongest men in the nation who could, by their influence and power, add immeasurably to the grasp which both house and senate would have on public questions.

But Speaker Reed contends, in the Il-But Speaker Reed contends, in the Hustrated American, that this plan would be destructive of our representative form of government. It is Mr. Reed's belief that we cannot adopt any feature of the British system without ageepting it in its entirety. Our members of the cabinet are appointed by the president and are not directly amenable to the people, and cannot be reached for any wrons advice they might give to the senate or house. Men so situated, in Mr. Reed's opinion, would have but little influence in legislation, but would have an unjust and mighty power in distributing the patronage of their departments. It is also urged by Mr. Reed as an additional ob-jection to copying the British system that in this country more than anywhere else a member represents his district, and even though he were appointed by the president a member of his cabinet he would still be amenable to his home luences, where his political future is determined, and not to the house or the senate or to the people.

## TOLD BY THE STARS.

Daily Horoscope Drawn by Ajacchus, The Tribune Astrologer. Astrolabe cast: 3.18 a. m., for Wednes day, Aug. 11, 1897,

9 A child born on this day will notice that it is never necessary to hang a red antern on man's mistakes in order that they may be seen.

The school board, in appointing a lady to look after a steam heating plant, has attested anew its implicit faith in the new woman. Even the Scranton Times will soon be forced to acknowledge that prosperity

Scandal is a flame that burns withou fanning. Financial intoxication generally exists when "money is tight."

## A CHANGE OF PROGRAMME.

O'er studies economic He burned the midnight oil;
The cheery and the comic
He shunned. He lived for toil, He fostered the ambition That through such pursuits he migh Be installed in a position To direct the land aright-But he didn't get an office

The learning he'd acquired. Among the "intellectual set" He ceased to be admired. His mind among the distant stars He bade no more meander; Ite gave away some cheap cigars
And worked a gerrymander—
And then he got an office. -Washington Star.

And so he let himself forget



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