

The Scranton Tribune

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We don't wish to be vain but it must be remarked that there are no cost webs on Scranton's hospitality.

Financially Independent.

The impression, studiously fostered by agitators, that this country is fettered hand and foot by European money lenders who have American industry and American financial interests practically at their mercy, receives a severe jolt from a narrative lately contributed by "Holland" to the Philadelphia Press.

It appears from "Holland's" narrative that a block of bonds aggregating several millions was to be put upon the market. The credit of the bonds was good, the interest desirable and payment in gold to be guaranteed.

Further testimony to this effect is given in the facts that a few days ago a block of bonds of \$10,000,000 issued by New York city was taken up by American customers and another block of \$12,000,000 issued by the Metropolitan Traction company was instantly absorbed by the home market.

Had he lived some centuries earlier President Andrews would have been burned at the stake. Now he is merely "roasted."

How Long, How Long?

There are moments when the most optimistic American, if he be honest with himself, is inclined to doubt whether in some respects pessimism does not hold the better end of the argument. One of these moments is likely to come to the man who reads of the treatment accorded by the Spanish authorities in Cuba to Evangelina Cisneros, the beautiful young niece of President Cisneros, and then reflects that in the face of numerous outrages of like character and in apparent indifference to the fundamental merits of the issue involving the very essence of those principles which our own government is founded—the administrative power of the United States, which could, if it so desired, bring the awful tragedy in Cuba to an end within twenty-four hours, is held in abeyance waiting, deliberating or trifling—nobody seems to know for certain which.

For being caught in the Isle of Pines in communication with her father, who is a leading rebel, this handsome and cultured young woman was seized by the Spanish officers, kept for nine months in the vilest prison in Havana, convicted of treason by a drum head court and sentenced to twenty years' imprisonment in the prison colony of Ceuta.

It is just across from Gibraltar, on the Morocco coast, with a desert scenery, lying between the Atlantic and the Mediterranean. With great care it has been arranged by the Spaniards that the usual population shall consist of nearly

equal parts—the worst and lowest criminals of Spain and political exiles. Doctors, lawyers and literary men of Havana break stone and shovel in the trenches, shoulder to shoulder with murderers, ravishers and robbers from the peninsula. They work in chains, keeping entire silence. A single word brings the lash of the guard down on the offender, and his day's work on the stone pile is done. He is tried up in the prison yard and flogged till he faints. They are fed on the Zoo are fed. They cannot even wash their hands and faces, let alone bathe. Cultivated, scholarly men, who know as much of civilization and comfort and clean linen as the average clubman of New York, have been kept so for years. There are prisoners there who have been undergoing this treatment ever since the ten-years' war, and that struggle for Cuban freedom was crushed thirty years ago. The backs of nearly all the prisoners are scarred and criss-crossed. The punishment for every transgression is the lash, and it is as much a transgression to snarl at your work in Ceuta as to refuse to do it.

It is not a pleasing reflection that the unwillingness of two presidents to join with congress in granting to Cuba belligerent rights which would have carried with them the diplomatic opportunity to demand of Spain that she prosecute the war in Cuba in accordance with the practices recognized among civilized nations as legitimate, should have opened to Spain the door to such horrors. We should not be surprised if in years to come both Cleveland and McKinley would receive censure in history for that very conservation on this subject which, while well meant, has had the effect to sacrifice the blood of innocent human beings guilty of no crime save love of liberty. Their excuse was that recognition of Cuban belligerency by us might provoke a war with Spain and thereby inflict loss upon American commerce; but are we forever to weigh dollars against humanity?

The question is, does Scranton want professional base ball next year? Will base ball survive?

Prejudice Run Mad.

It is necessary to assume, in advance, that a project like that of John Britton Walker, which offers free tuition to pupils unable to attend the costly universities, will be a failure? Is there anything in the proposition which invites or justifies the ridicule which a portion of the press is striving to heap upon it? Should it be held to a man's discredit that he has the courage to make the attempt to extend some of the advantages of university training to the masses which otherwise might lack the opportunity of suitable self-education? Even taking the view that Mr. Walker, in planning this institution, had no higher aim or was actuated by no worthier motive than that of advertising the magazine of which he is the proprietor, is it an offense to advertise in a manner beneficial to all concerned? Would any national man begrudge to such an ingenious and liberal-minded publisher the incidental advantage arising from his legitimate and beneficent enterprise?

Inasmuch as the founder of this new school assumes by himself the whole expense and asks not a penny from the public either for endowment or services rendered, why should it be the desire of any portion of the public or of any newspaper that it should not prove a success? Having driven Mr. Andrews from one college presidency because he gave expression to views upon a political issue unlike those at the time in the ascendancy in his vicinity, why should any honest man desire to pursue him further, and seek to deprive him of the opportunity to earn an honest livelihood as the executive head of Mr. Walker's new institution of instruction? What good can possibly come of such pursuit and persecution? What equivalent are these assaults of Messrs. Andrews and Walker offering for their gratuitous, not to say infamous, attacks?

In our career—and it is not a long one—we have seen many strange phenomena in American journalism, but nothing heretofore so utterly without apparent provocation or justification; nothing before to all appearances so absolutely base and brutal as the present onslaught by certain prominent newspapers upon an educational experiment which has not yet had the chance to demonstrate its merit but which, if it shall even approximately achieve what it announces as its aim, must deserve the approbation of every well-wisher of American institutions. Heaven help journalism if this spirit shall long dominate it!

Senator Hoar's point that one reason why the English parliament in respect of showy statesmanship surpasses our congress is because in England the best men in the country can be chosen to represent any district, while in the United States the choice in each district is restricted among residents of that district, is stated in another way by a correspondent of the Evening Post, who writes: "Unfortunately our bright young men leave the small towns of their birth and flock up to the great centers, as offering wider fields for their advancement. In consequence, the local elector finds his choice limited to what is left—the intellectual skimmed milk of which the cream has been carried up to New York or other great cities." If these bright young men aspire to honors in statesmanship, why don't they remain in the small places and be "big toads in little puddles"?

The Harrisburg News recently celebrated the second anniversary of its existence by the issue of a forty-eight page industrial number which is profusely illustrated and contains much good reading matter of a historical nature, as well as biographies of well known Pennsylvanians and sketches of general interest. The News is as attractive, up-to-date daily, and is entitled to its present prosperity.

The court of Schuylkill county has adopted six rules governing naturalization, the effect of which will be to exclude from citizenship any candidate shown to have been a lawbreaker or to have been rejected by some other court. The rules make it necessary for some citizens to appear in court with formal objections, else the candi-

date will be passed. It is easy to see that in practice these rules will have little value. Now and then some notorious alien may be halted on the way to citizenship, but for the majority of aliens the road will be clear. What is everybody's business is nobody's business and on this principle few citizens will step up with bills of objection. The court itself should see whether the candidate for naturalization is fit to become an American citizen, and it should grant papers to no alien who cannot make his fitness clear beyond all reasonable doubt. In this way only can the problem be solved in such a manner as will protect the stream of good government at one of its important sources.

In one of the counties in Alabama where homicides, assaults and lynchings are frequent it is explained that there has been but one legal execution in thirty-five years. If the courts thus fall in their duty can we wonder that the people do not care to entrust the administration of justice to them?

The newly created office of governor of the Klondike carries with it a salary of \$5,000 a year, but if the occupant of it cared to piece that income up by individual research for gold dust he might easily count on a few hundreds extra.

Lifting the Veil Off False Pretence

Rochester Democrat and Chronicle.

So far as civil service reform was exemplified in the policy of the late administration, it furnished many excuses for the attack which Hon. Charles H. Grosvenor, of Massachusetts, made upon the entire system. Mr. Grosvenor's speech, which was delivered July 19, 1897, is a powerful argument from the standpoint of the facts which inspired it. Some of these facts are as follows: During the administration of the late administration the number of employees who lost their places by removal or compulsory resignation were: In the treasury department, 283; in the interior department, 1,135; in the agricultural department, 1,116; including the other departments, 5,122 persons were deprived of their positions by dismissal or enforced resignation in the three-year period named. These employees were experienced and capable men according to Mr. Cleveland's declared civil service principles, should have been retained in the service of the government. But they had to go out of the service, not solely for political reasons. More than 95 per cent. of them were Democrats. Some of the reasons for their removal were in the classified and some in the unclassified service, while there were 4,263 promotions in the former and only 784 in the latter.

How "promotions" were made to cover a Democratic rush for spoils is thus explained by Logan Carlisle, in the Express: "These figures require a word of explanation. If Logan Carlisle, in the treasury department, had a batch of Democratic friends whom either wanted to add in offices for which they were unable to pass the civil service examinations, he simply appointed them to places in the unclassified service, and he beat the civil service rules with a single twist of the wrist. How often this cunning trick was played by the heads of departments under Mr. Cleveland's bogus reform administration is shown by the fact, already cited, that during the three-year period quoted by General Carlisle there were 4,263 promotions in the classified service and only 784 in the unclassified service. These, however, are only a few of the disgraceful facts disclosed by General Grosvenor's inquiry. He finds, for instance, that 1,028 Union veterans were driven from the department by the late administration to make room for hungry Democrats; that a great many Democratic appointments were promoted during the required probationary period of three months in open disregard of civil service rules, and that there are not a few cases in which appointments to offices were made during the late administration in violation of law." Furthermore, all of Mr. Cleveland's extensions of the civil service rules were delayed until after Republicans had been driven out and Democrats put in their places. The reform administration never had any use for reform until political favor had been distributed. Thus a double dishonesty was perpetrated. First, the merit system was maintained by the late administration, and regulated according to changing conditions and necessities. It promoted to offices in the public service, exercised a wholesome restraint on the scramble for office, and leaves the heads of departments free to attend to more important business than that of hunting jobs for their political friends. General Grosvenor has done well to denounce the late administration, but he will probably be found side by side with President McKinley to the extent that the latter was a champion of policy of genuine and practical loyalty to civil service principles in the territory and honest application to the affairs of the government.

COUNTING THE PENNIES.

From the Providence Journal.

A western paper makes merry over a story about counterfeit pennies in Boston which calls attention, it says, to the fact that that city "is a one-cent town." The use of anything smaller than a nickel. This attitude towards copper money is nothing new. Six months ago, when circulation in the west that it once had, but even now, despite the talk of hard money, the west apparently considers it mean and unworthy of the citizens of a free country to count the cost of pennies. It is safe to say that nowhere out of the United States would such a notion be possible. Nor is there any reason why we should be proud of such a senseless spirit of knowledge.

FACTS ABOUT ALASKA.

Alaska runs 1,500 miles west of Hawaii. In central and northern Alaska the ground is frozen to a depth of 200 feet. Men born in southern latitudes have become insensible to the long dark days. Just below rapid ice forms only nine feet thick, and there fishing is done. In other places it will reach forty feet. All distances are elastic. It is 2,000 miles from Sitka to Klondike. Exposed portions of the body freeze in three minutes.—Times-Herald.

NOMENCLATURE.

When to the clouds a man sent forth a plea for knowledge, he made the world perceive the worth of things discovered there. The spirit that glows by night, But tell us in simple phrase That Franklin bore a kite.

Europe. Hotel rates have gone up, carriages cost more, shopping has become more expensive, servants expect larger tips—and all because the modest European scale of living has seemed small and mean to our countrymen. The idea of a frugal apology for economy on the part of an American to which a European is a stranger. No one in Europe is the least ashamed of acknowledging a small income or avowing the necessity of saving pennies. We fear a great deal about the chapsiness of things abroad, and travelers who know the ropes really can accomplish a good deal at a low cost. But this is not the time to expect that you will help you save. The American idea is to help you spend. Therein lies all the difference. No wonder that Europeans refer to our countrymen as "the chaps" under conditions which Americans have helped to bring about.

There are of course even in America those who carry economy to an extreme. Perhaps this falling in is more conspicuous here in New England, where pennies are not despised, than in such free-and-easy communities as Kansas City, New Englanders are tolerant toward it, calling the man who is miserly not mean but "near." And "nearness" has its unpleasant and even repulsive aspects. It is not, however, likely to become a national vice. The general tendency is quite the other way. We are inclined to establish too many luxuries in living, and we are inclined for what we buy than it is worth; to "hang the expense" so long as our desires are gratified. Such a spirit can hardly be said to have a bad effect, to justify expenditures which are unjustifiable, to make paying five cents for what ought to cost a matter of pride. Not so is the way to real prosperity.

TOLD BY THE STARS.

Daily Horoscope Drawn by Ajaxchus, The Tribune Astrologer. Astrologic Cast: 1.48 a. m., for Saturday, August 21, 1897.

A child born on this day will notice that Scranton elms can always play ball when the seasons have advanced sufficiently to render their efforts of small account on the percentage table.

Park Commissioner Bedford will doubtless be somewhat dissatisfied if he does not see his son turning the Noy Aug plot into a cow pasture.

Yukon News.

Citizens from Wilkes-Barre become acclimated the most rapidly of any new comers. They have been able to stand hard frosts during the base ball season. Patrons desiring advertisements inserted in the "Bug" will do well to accompany their orders with the "Bug" editor of the "Bug" does not propose to accept iron pyrites as currency while 8-foot nuggets are lying around loose. Chaik up, cents! Chaik up! Uncle Bill Firm owns the only bull pup in camp. The pup is a thoroughbred beauty, but the habit of exercising his lungs in the morning has injured his doctor's health. Uncle Bill will please accept a tip that the night air in the vicinity of "The Bug" is a little chilly.

EATING TOO MUCH.

From Leslie's Weekly. It is cited as one of the explanations of Dr. Chauncey M. Depew's remarkable youthfulness and vigor and ability to do so much things which would wear out yourself or others, that he is a scientific eater; that he knows just what to put into his stomach and how much of it to take. The menu at the swiftest banquet may fairly glisten with the richest prizes of the chef, but Dr. Depew gives one swing into the air, and the mystifying nomenclature, and, selecting one—probably the plainest of the lot—says, "That." And when the others have gorged and stuffed, and the waiter has been busy with the doctor is as fresh as a summer girl, and his stomach as easy as that of the stoutest of the stout.

Much criticism has lately been directed against our American bill-of-fare for foreign visitors, especially those who come over last fall and winter and went back home and wrote about their experiences. They found too much to eat, but not too much sameness, too much that was not attractive. They objected to the necessity of selecting what they needed, and in that they have the sympathy of all good Americans, for the average bill-of-fare is a test of human patience; but it is better that we should have a menu of the kind that we have in the Home restaurant, and afterwards complained that it would have been all right if he had stood by the American bill-of-fare, and was not the average American.

The people of this country each much because they have much to eat. The foreigners complain that the habit of eating an American breakfast is suicidal and unhygienic, but it is not surprising that the man who can eat the American breakfast has no need of doctors, and he is the factor who has made this country what it is. The fact that we have been able to evolve from the broken-down and dyspeptic and second-hand material sent to these shores from the other side a race of superior people, who are more beautiful than the world had hitherto known, with men who have done more things than any in the world's history, and have been able to build up a nation greater than any other on earth, is pretty good proof that if Americans eat too much they eat the right sort of food.

DEADLY VENOM.

From the St. Louis Republic. The fact should be impressed upon anarchists that the torch of the Liberty statue on Bedloe's Island in New York harbor is not the torch of anarchy lifted in rebellion against the government, but for their crimes from other countries. There is no room for anarchists in the United States. They don't work, and they hate their work, and get along in the world. This republic is too big and happy and prosperous to allow its blood to become tainted with the deadly venom of anarchy.

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