

Judge Pennypacker, of the Philadelphia common pleas bench, has declined to issue a charter to a Christian Science church in that city, on the ground that to do so would violate the law requiring that a church charter shall not also legalize the business of practicing the healing art for pay.

The New Department Store.

The formal opening last evening of Jones Long's Sons' new department store contributes to the mercantile resources of Scranton in an institution commensurate in magnitude with the city's population and position as the trading metropolis of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

There will naturally be at the beginning some diversity of opinion as to the effects of this new element of competition upon the established mercantile enterprises of Scranton, but inasmuch as this competition is now assured, speculation is necessarily ineffectual.

The dominant lesson of this large venture, however, is that Scranton is fulfilling its destiny and realizing its aspirations as a city of broad and substantial growth.

And now it is Wilkes-Barre that is worrying over that government armor-plate factory site. It can compose its feelings. There will be no government armor-plate factory.

Good News from Cuba.

The news from Cuba these days is an effective answer to the autonomy bluff. General Garcia in the eastern provinces has for several days been making mince-meat of Spanish war, and now comes word, officially certified by Blanco, of the capture by the insurgents of the important southern town of Calmanera, together with \$25,000 in money and a valuable lot of supplies.

Again, the reported resumption of the grinding of sugar cane, which Captain General Blanco claims as a victory for his policy of conciliation and reconstruction, is interpreted very differently by Americans in Cuba.

Having shown their ability to capture weapons from the land side, the insurgents need only naval co-operation to effect the entire expulsion of Spain from the island. The reason why the Cuban junta in this country wants the McKinley administration to recognize Cuban belligerency is because it would give the Cuban patriots the right to equip torpedo boats and other warships in American ports, for action against Spain on the high seas.

The Pennsylvania Andulbon society was organized in October, 1896, for the purpose of furthering the protection of our wild birds. Its report for the first year of its existence shows that it has enrolled 2,300 members, who have signed

the pledge cards of the society to abstain from the use of wild birds for ornamentation in millinery, etc. In addition much literature has been distributed helpful to the society's purpose. The society has contributed something to bettering legislation in protection of game and has been prominent in shaping public opinion to refrain from the wanton killing of our feathered songsters, but as it charges no membership fee and is in all respects a voluntary movement, its directors appeal to friends of the movement for financial help.

Secretary Gage's currency plan is not received with hilarious enthusiasm in any quarter, but nevertheless it is causing a large amount of study and reflection, and that is probably what the secretary has most earnestly in view.

That Bicycle Race.

A certain element in the population, which feels itself commissioned to save society from evil whether society evinces any disposition to be saved or not, is reported to be greatly exercised over the fact that in New York city a public exhibition is in progress having as its principal feature the spectacle of a number of wearied athletes engaged in a six-days' bicycle race.

These wheelmen are engaged in what to most men seems a ridiculous competition, the prize of which would apparently poorly repay the winner for the energy and anxiety expended in its pursuit. They are risking on one race their physical well-being, at least for a considerable period after its conclusion, and perhaps permanently.

In other words, there is not a vigorous and virile American in the land who is in any position to throw stones at the New York bicycle race. The outcry against it is not without elements of reason and justice, but nevertheless if we were to eliminate from our national life the competitive spirit of which that race is a symbol we should soon lose those characteristics which have distinguished this nation from other nations and made our civilization in the judgment of most men the best withal that there is on the globe.

Premier Sagasta more leniently ascribes the reference to interference as a trick to satisfy certain political sentiments in the United States. There was a time when such a construction of a president's message would have created considerable popular indignation, but the whole course of two administrations toward the struggling Cuban patriots has been such that the people have no indignation left to waste upon so mild an affront.

The energetic manner in which the German government recently exacted smart money and apology from the Haitian government for injustice put by the latter upon a German citizen has not received altogether unanimous commendation in the United States, for the reason that the Haitian government, pleading its comparative weakness and perverting the facts, created through its diplomatic representative at Washington and by other means a considerable amount of false sympathy in this country.

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On the 18th of April--the day following his arrival at Cape Haitien--he succeeded in securing passage on a small boat for Monte Christ, but while he was walking about the wharf waiting for the boat to leave he was assaulted by Haitian soldiers, beaten, and thrown into the sea. With great difficulty and after much suffering he managed to get back to New York,

though his health has been permanently impaired by his injuries. His statements are corroborated by several affidavits and depositions accompanying his memorial.

"Campbell's claim," adds the Washington Post, "was presented to the Haitian government by Secretary Gresham's direction, and that was the last of it. The Haitian authorities never even took the trouble to acknowledge its receipt."

If Germany erred on the side of precipitancy it would appear from these facts--which we are glad to note, have been made the subject of inquiry by the senate--that the United States erred infinitely more glaringly on the side of negligence and indifference. It is wholly safe to affirm that after the Lueders incident, with its immediate and impressive object lesson teaching Haitians the futility of monkeying with the Germanic luzz-saw, a German citizen will be safe on Haitian soil for all time hereafter.

We infer from the tone of Secretary Long's remarks concerning the civil service that congress is not indissolubly wedded to the Mugwump idol, and that the "reformers," notwithstanding their brave talk, are beginning to fear a divorce.

Again there is talk of a new steel rail road. If one could be formed that would be fair to all concerned and that would also be lasting it would unquestionably be a public benefit. But it wishes were horses beggars might ride.

The petition of native Hawaiians against annexation would be more convincing if it could be shown that one in a hundred knew at the time what he was signing.

TOLD BY THE STARS.

Daily Horoscope Drawn by Ajanechus, The Tribune Astrologer. Astrological cast: 1.30 p. m., for Saturday, December 11, 1897.

A child born on this day will not be the Scranton barbers are a pleasant lot of fellows. They can discuss the details of the Van Horn murder most calmly when shaving a nervous customer.

With only six members, it is estimated that the pull on the school board will be three and a half times harder than at present.

And now a larkery trust? This indeed takes the biscuit.

Ajanechus' Advice. Do not try to howl yourself into prominence. The dear public may resolve to howl you out.

Premier Sagasta Crows Too Soon. There is no effort on the part of the Spanish government to conceal the elation felt over that portion of President McKinley's message referring to Cuba. It is more favorable than any administration cabinet had dared to expect, probably because they are secretly of the same mind as minister Taylor about the promised reforms.

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The prediction that the message will have a disastrous effect upon the insurgents, however, need not be credited too readily. The president's attitude is no more encouraging than that of his predecessor in office, but it is not probable that the soldiers of the insurrection, who note the official indifference of the United States to the most inhuman crimes of the Weyler regime, have any serious hopes of interference with the comparatively humane efforts of Blanco. It is manifestly certain that at least one of the great leaders of the revolution is wasting any of his time or attention upon political movements, either in the United States or Spain.

It is more than probable that the new promises of reform and autonomy were never intended for any other purpose than to induce the United States to adopt the policy of non-interference, with which the Sagasta government is so well pleased. But if the promises are sustained for any length of time it will necessarily benefit Cuba. If resort is had to the old methods there will yet be time, before the adjournment of congress, for the United States to modify its policy.

REPUBLICAN DIVISIONS. From the Washington Star.

On the record made at this session of congress the Republican party must appeal to the country in next year's campaign. If that record is good the party may hope for endorsement at the polls; if not, it may expect to be defeated. What is the present prospect? The Republican party in congress is at present divided on every important proposition upon which action is expected by the country. No recommendation by the president is unanimously endorsed. Only this stage a doing-nothing session or only such results as carry with them the seeds of bitter factional fighting? Does any Republican leader think that the party can carry over as such any such record as that? It is early yet. The session has but just begun. But factional fighting is something that the party can carry over just party be permitted to go very far. And just now Republican divisions are not confined to congress. In a number of states the situation growing out of factional contests is a very serious one, threatening permanent injury to the par-

ty. There is plenty of work, indeed, for the peace-maker, and the Republicans would do well to call him in at once. A demoralized congress, and demoralized Republican organizations in important states, will inevitably lead to defeat next year.

WITH REFERENCE TO HAWAII.

From Walter Wellman's Washington Letter in the Chicago Times-Herald. Much is being made of Speaker Reed's opposition to the acquisition of Hawaii. There appears to be no doubt that Speaker Reed is opposed to it as a matter of opinion, which is the more surprising, because New England missionaries are the leading spirits in the social and political life of the islands. The speaker is, of course, entitled to his opinion, but he has intimated with satisfactory clearness that his opposition will not take the form of refusing the house an opportunity to vote upon the question. Mr. Reed is not quite as much of a tyrant as that.

Without doubt the article of Professor James Bryce in the Forum has exercised a good deal of influence upon public men here. Mr. Bryce's principal argument is that instead of being a source of strength to the United States from the naval or strategic point of view, Hawaii would be a weakness, inasmuch as it is an outpost which would find it difficult to defend. Mr. Bryce has put his argument so ingeniously, and withal in a tone so friendly to the United States, that it is worth a careful study. In fact, they are the seats of her naval power in the western Atlantic, since ships must have ports to run to, docks to clean and repair in, and wharves to coal at, just as they must have speed and big guns. Invent ships that need no coal or repairs, and it may be granted that Halifax and Bermuda are weaknesses rather than strength in the British naval establishment, and that Hawaii would add nothing to the naval power of the United States.

Mr. Bryce's most attractive argument, in the broad sense, is that the United States is a nation of peace, and that it needs neither outposts nor a great navy. If we mind our own business he thinks that the most dangerous use for war ships, if this is true, as everyone hopes it is, is the question then is simply whether or not acquisition of Hawaii will increase our navy beyond our needs. If it will not, and we are to have no wars, why is Honolulu any more a necessary outpost than San Francisco or Portland or New York or Boston? As a part of the territory of the United States it will enjoy that protection which it is our duty to give to this country to secure for its people.

No one has as yet been able to point out how Hawaiian annexation is likely to increase our naval strength. If we do not annex it we may have trouble, but with the flag floating at Honolulu the same speed and security will reign there that prevail in Boston and San Francisco.

While it is true that Japan makes a way face over our annexation project and has her lobbyists here to defeat the treaty, it is also true that the Japanese government will have no cause for complaint if we do annex. She is working the bluff a little, because if we are foolish enough to close our doors to the Japanese she will be glad to take her in, if she can do so without a row with the United States. Annexation once achieved, Japan will be as calm as a May morning. No other power has even the semblance of an objection to our acquisition of the islands. Hawaii, therefore, brings us no risks. If we come to us it will come through other sources, and in that event Hawaii would be a good thing to have. Offensively, it is worth at least two or three battle ships. Defensively, it is no more liable to attack and capture than any other American port.

SHOULD BE THE FIRST.

From the Chicago Times-Herald. Old soldiers should be among the first to see the necessity of preventing an abuse of the generous sentiment that made and has protected the pension system.

A Coal-Oil Joban. "Rich," exclaimed one emancipated woman to another: "why, she's the queen of the stock exchange."

"She's very lavish, I'm told, in her display." "She can afford it. She's so rich that she uses hundred-dollar bills for scrip papers."--Washington Star.

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