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The Scranton Tribune

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SCRANTON, DECEMBER 15, 1897.

The wife of General Sanguilly denies with vehemance that he has gone over to Spain. And the general himself calls the report to that effect "an infamous But if he has it would cause Cubans only to contribute the more liberally and to fight the harder for independence.

Those Chamber Concerts.

We take pleasure in giving conspicuous place this morning to the timely letter by Professor Southworth protesting against the proposed abandonment of the Chamber concerts previously announced for this winter and calling upon the public generally and music teachers and their pupils especially to come to the rescue. Every land. word in the professor's communication deserves to be underscored. To permit this admirable means of public entertainment and instruction to be extinguished because of the lack of sufficient financial appreciation in a community assuming the name and intelligent and unflinching economy manners of a metropolitan city would | can, if it will, save two, three or four be a public humiliation. It must not

The position of Messrs, Hemberger and Conant in this matter should not Here is where the country expects the he misunderstood. As we take it, they have given their time and talents to the work freely and with an enthusiasm which has conquered many obstacles and disappointments. But it can hardly be expected of them that after organizing the concerts, supervising the many details, contributing freely the time required for practice and finally donating their service as artists, they should reach into their own pockets to bridge the disparity latween cash receipts and unavoidable expenses. For what they have done the public is already indebted to a degree which if expressed in figures would measure a generous sum. The simplest rudiments of fair play should acquit them of any blame in declining after this poorly requited term of pub-He service to enter upon another season of martyrdom

Their announcement of a reluctance to endue further sacrifice should put the musle-lovers of Scranton, if there be such an element in the community, upon their honor. Now is the time for friends of the higher progress of Scranton to step to the front or hereafter hold their peace.

Rallway earnings for November increased \$47,085,801 over November, 1896, and were 5.9 per cent, higher than in the same month in the banner year. 1892. In other words, prosperity's main show has caught up with its advance ugent.

Penalties of Greatness.

Social Washington is greatly agitated, it appears, over the determination reached by the wives of the members ent cabinet not hereafter to

endured a run on its gold reserve and sold bonds in time of peace to keep head affoat. The hard times have passed, but the government is still in the hole. It has adopted a new revenue bill that would make ends meet if old accounts were all cleaned up; but old accounts are not cleaned up, and until they are, congress must either put new tax on the people or enter. upon a period of genuine economy. The latter course obviously is the

course which will win the favor of the people. Economy, to be sure, must be intelligent. But the point is opportunely made by the Philadelphia Press that If our large corporations, such, for example, as the Pennsylvania railroad, may under stress of business depression contract their expenditures from 5 to 20 per cent, without appreciable effect in deterioration of the quality of their service, then it ought easily to be possible for the government to do the same thing, especially in view of the notorious fact that as a rule the government pays more wages for less work and higher prices for poorer equivalents than any private or corporate employer or purchaser in the

This is a great country which has growing needs that nobody desires to see denied. Some increases among the items appropriated are imperative. But for every dollar of increased expense dollars habitually spent on non-essentials or spent extravagantly and in violation of the best business principles. Republican party to rise to the emergency and do its duty.

Louis Kossuth's son, Francis, declares that Hungary is willing to let its king be emperor of Austria as a sort of supplementary occupation, but that henceforth the tail must wag the dog. Louis talks like a man holding winning cards.

National Supervision of Insurance An interesting bill has been introduced in congress by Senator Platt, of Connecticut. It proposes to establish in the Treasury department a division for the regulation of insurance among the several states. The head of the proposed division is to be known as the United States commissioner of insurance, to be appointed by the president for a term of four years. He is to inquire into the management and financial condition of all the insurance corporations which do an interstate business, and is given broad powers of Investigation. Beginning with January, 1899, he is to secure from all life insurance companies a list of life poliicies then in force, their value, etc. A government actuary is provided for to compute valuations, and a small charge is made on the insurance companies to cover this item of expense. The commissioner is also to keep track of foreign laws relating to insurance; to prohibit insolvent companies from doing interstate business, etc. He is to make

similar reports as to fire insurance

companies. If this measure shall be pushed a vigorous protest on the score of unconstitutionality may be expected; but reasoning by analogy it would seem only such competency as affected that if the federal government may welfare of the bosses being considthe exercise the power of scrutiny and cred. The people who paid the taxes regulation over interstate commerce it were not consulted nor rec may with equal propriety cause inly or indirectly. It was simply a game in which bosses won with loaded nice and if quiry to be made for the protection of the civil service law were repeated, and the spolls system in full swing, it would those of its citizens who purchase interstate insurance. Insurance these rove a boomerang to the bosses for the ramble for place would not only be un days has come to be so widespread a eccdented but the bosses would find necessity and has enlisted so genernat where they pleased one man in makally the savings of the people that, g their selections they disappointed like banking, it cannot be put by the wenty others-and that at the next elec-lons these disappointed men would force of law on too strong a basis of parch upon them at the polls and oversafety and solvency. The general govwhelm them. ernment does not rely wholly upon The anti-civil service adherents come back at this line of argument by stating that the wholesale blanketing into the state authority to protect the patrons of banks. It has cause to know that state supervision of banking is very government service of any man or set of men through the exclusive operation of uneven, amounting in some states almost to no supervision at all. Therein executive order by the president, extending the protective arms of the law so fore it takes unto itself the supervision of banks organized under national law s to encircle and shield this class of men who have never passed an examination as required by the organic act, is not only and thereby virtually forces state

Some Glimpses at Congress at Work

Special to the Scranton Tribune. Washington, Dec. H .- Since the date of my last letter the bill appropriating \$10,-283,880 for pensions passed the nouse af-ter a stormy debate. The expression of feeling brought out by the discussion seemed to be against any further increase in pensions, on the theory that after a

of thirty-three years, since the close appear of thirdy-three years, which the dose of the war, there appears to be no good grounds for increasing the pension ap-propriation bill. The bill was passed with-out amendment, although the secretary of the interior and the commissioner of pensions both recommended a repeal of the law allowing pensions to widows-who may become such-after the passage of the act containing this proviso. The reason given by the commissioner of pensions for the recommendation in question was that in many cases comparatively young women marry old soldiers for the single purpose of securing pensions for life at their husbands' death, the chances being alme to ten that the wives will outive them

Congressman Connell, in speaking to me on the day the bill passed regarding his views on pension legislation generally. aid that while the amount seemed large

et so far as he was concerned he didn't begrudge the boys who served this nation a single cent in the way of pensions, and if a measure was proposed in the house of representatives providing for a service pension, along the lines of equity and justice, for every veteran who honorably discharged from the ser-Warm vice, it would receive his hearty support; but he was not in favor of giving certain widows of distinguished officers fifty or a hundred dollars a month pension simply cause their hushands were the stars of a general and putting the widows of the private soldier (whose valor and sacrifice ctually made the general his reputation) down to a siy, eight, ten and twelve dol-lar a month basis. All should fare alike nd any other course, in his opinion, was in the nature of unjust discrimination.

The civil service is viewed by a great many representatives and senators in congress much in the nature of a great imaginary sea-serpent or other submarine monster that has come to desiroy swallow up the rich spoils of official pat-reinage that ought to go to the victors of the political battlefield. And the minute pops its unhallowed head above the rface of the sea of discontent which is

fast beginning to surge with such violent fury on the floor of our national congress, every fellow who has read the story of Adam and Eve and the unfortunate apple, and has taken a natural dislike to reptiles generally, loses no time in seizing what-ever weapon he can lay his hands on and heaving it with all the force at his command against the hulk of the beast, which, after a short breathing spell and nsiderable of shorting, spouting and owing of steam and salt water, quick-disappears beneath the surface to ther strength and to return again in a are savage mood. But the fellows on the other hand who pretend to know all about $i \mathfrak{g}$, say too much indulgence in captured spoils and other things, have made

their brethren drunken, and that the great official snake they see colling and twisting around them is only imaginary and should excite no terrors in the minds of any but the timid and bilious office seeker or political boss. The argument of the pro-civil pervice hampie

ampions on the floor of the national use of representatives, builed down to minimum, is about as follows, viz.; That the civil service does not create a privileged class of life tenure people as dleged by its enemies; but that the old polls system did create such class, in this way. It was composed of political bostes and managers who formed a trust and farmed out the government's favors to

their own exclusive advantage, having no thought of the government's welfare nor the welfare of those they put in office longer than such people could serve them. These offices were not open to competi-

power-a fact that seems to have so far escaped the observation of the present administration. I am source to say. It is perfectly natural for government officials to favor those of their own political faith in all quaters relating to promotions, re-GOLDSMITH'S

ductions, or advantageous positions in the public departments of the govern-ment, and the present Democratic contingent is no exception to the rule. I would even go further than this, and exempfrom examination all private secretaries and persons holding confidential official relations with the heads of departments relations with the heads of defait the or their shureau officers and their assistants in the internal revenue service. In short, I be-lieve that in view of the universal dissat-isfaction among the beiter class of public spirited men with the manner in which President Cleveland juggled with the civil service law to conserve partisan ends. It would be far better for the Republican party and more satisfactory to the coun-try at large, if the entire illegitimate brood of extension orders and riveted blankets were wiped from off the fac of the earth, and a speedy return mad back to the Harrison administration there to commence a new order of thingby requiring all appointments thereafte to the actual clerical force, to be ad mitted solely through competitive exam ination except where it applies to the cases of ex-Union soldiers, their widows or, to army nurses.

"By the adoption of this course all taint or suspicion of fraud, corruption, duplicity and softish partisan greed, which now arises from appointment through non-competitive examinations that really mean nothing, for the rea-son that the candidate's fallure to make the average percentage required can b doctored to suit, by simply making up his efficiency record to supply any deficiency that may arise, will disappear, and the civil service system, instead of going backward, will soon grow into popular favor and become a permanent fixture among our institutions, which no political party dare undertake to overthrow. But if the present course, or that pursued dur-ing the Cleveland regime, is stubbornly persisted in, the system will at once be-come a target for fierce attacks from all sides that will result in so changing it in appearance as to make it unrecogniz-able by its own parents."

The subject of pensions and civil ser-vice having absorbed public attention in a great measure at the capital during the past week. I have therefore confined this letter to a brief account of what constitutes the general sentiment here in reference to these two important questions. In my pext letter I hope to have other matters of an entirely differ ent character that I trust will be interest ing to every reader of The Tribune. The Lear approach of the Christmas holidays warrants the belief that congress will adjourn on the 18th instant to January 3 1898, and that very little legislation will be enacted until the resumption of the of the egislative mill in the beginning new year. -Stratton.

THOSE CHAMBER CONCERTS.

Editor of The Tribune. Sir: Believing that the management of the chamber concerts made a mistake it discontinuing them, and that Scranton does not yet wish to relinquish her post tion as a city having a love for the beau tiful and an enthusiastic appreciation of music, it has been decided to open a fund in order to resume these concert. and, when the subscriptions have reached sufficient amount, to continue them a before.

Sensible presents, Slippers and I appeal principally to those to whom Shoes from 25c to \$5.00. Our best these concerts are of the greatest benefit, the musicians and teachers, for if the efforts are at your service. Always teachers take no interest in music, how can they expect the student to? It certainly is to the interests of the students to hear such good music as the quartette has always given. As is well known, this is not a morey-making scheme; these men play purely from desire to better the condition of music and the only reaso for charging admission is that the neces-sary expenses may be paid. When you consider that Scranton is almost the only string quartette worthy of the name, yo will readily see what a loss it would b to the musical world to have it drop out ognized direct.

Sound Advice To Everybody. . . .

Because everybody in Christendom buys more or less Christmas Gifts, be they costly or not costly. Mild and inclement weather has kept many back from doing their choosing, and as there are 275,000 men, women and children in Lackawanna county and suburbs who will do their Christmas buying in Scranton, you can readily understand what a great rush there must necessarily be during the remaining few days before Christmas. Therefore, if you wish to avoid the surging, clamoring crowds of eager purchasers, it is wholesome advice for you not to postpone your trading any longer than you can possibly help. Our store never was in better condition to help you out than now.

G. B.

The Special Holiday Department

In basement is a revelation to everybody. It is filled with Toys, Games, Books, Leather Goods, Celluloid Articles, Plush Articles, Cut Glass, Sterling Silver Novelties. etc., at prices so low that they bring the smile of satisfaction to every customer.

RELIABLE

Clothing at reliable prices, has always been our motto. Quality unexcelled, prices the lowest.

BAZAAR.

Your money back if you want it; and the same price to everybody. Open Evenings Until After the Holidays.





CHRISTMAS IS COMING

supply free refreshment to the multitudes that attend their public receptions. This anti-free-lunch trust was crganized, it seems, soon after the Chinese minister was compelled to sprinkle red pepper all over his mansion to keep the hungry hordes from eating him out of house and home: but we take it that it does not come within the proh'bition of the Sherman anti-trust act. for the wife of the vonerable secretary of state is quoted in a current dispatch as saying:

"I knew of a Western congressman once who, having received an invitation to a reception, went and took nine friends with him. Of course, no invitations are issued for cabinet receptions. They are open to the public From experience of indies of fermer cabinets, we are led to suppose that the crowds will be much less numerbanks to observe the same high standcus if no refreshments are provided. You have doubtlize heard stories of instances where guests, after disposing of the contents of one plate, would blde it under a curtain or chair and receive another. I think that more than one lady of the last cabinet had auver experiences of this kind. I have been told of receptions in Washington where refreshments were served, and men put salted almonds and candles into their pockets. There was one case where a woman was seen to slip a piece of cake adroitly into her pocket handberehlef, and, on perceiving that her ousiness. action had been noticed, she dropped it on the floor. From my own drawing roon, once disappeared during a reception a handsome pair of opera glasses, and on another such occasion a valuable fan vanished."

No doubt these little social amenities are annoying, but do the leaders of the present revolution comprehend fully what they are doing? Have they meditated sufficiently upon the hazard which they take in locking the larder and bolting the wine cellar in the face of the hungry and thirsty myriads that dog the footsteps and hang as it were upon the skirts and coat-tails of greatness? Is not this a government of the people, by the people and for the people? And are not "the people" chiefly represented by the grand army of the unplaced in Washington?

The free lunch is the magna charta of American democracy. Let plutoc-"acy tamper with it at its peril!

It is understood that the president intends soon to urge congress by means of a special message to create a cabinet department of commerce and industries. There is ample work for one.

A Chance for the Cheese Knife.

The role of cheese-parer is not always a popular one with the classes whose soft snaps are menaced, but upon occasions it is necessary. Such an occasion has been reached in the affairs of the United States and the Republican party must act accordingly. Fortunately if by trimming down federal expenses it shall make some enemies in official circles it will find more than compensation in increased popularity among the people.

During the hard times every business enterprise reduced expenses except the government. The government increased them, experienced a deficit, tag has not been misplaced.

ards or suffer in competition with the national banks. thes thereby the chances of promotion and preference to which this worthy class In similar manner, federal supervision of insurance would doubtless tend entitled. In arguing from this standpoint the Republicans cadm this stand-point the Republicans cadm that under President Cleveland's regime a syste-matic weeding out of Republicans took place, and the vacant places were filled by Demonstrate Cleveland (Demonstrated Cleveland) not only to protect patrons of the companies directly involved, but also compel the local companies to do business on the square." We cannot see why Democrats, after which Cleveland, b selfish exercise of his presidential pre-gative, swept in under the civil service any well-managed insurance company should object to the principle of the y his orders of extension-without com effice examination-every available Platt bill. The better the standing of a company in the official reports, the lace from char-woman up to that of his own private secretary, including officers of governmental lunatic asylums and penbetter its chances of doing a growing tentiaries. That this wholesale gouble

Chicago is about to tint the features f New York and other rivals with a stand. They, the Republicans, cite as an example that before the celebrated orpale green coat of envy. To her collecion of megatheriums, dinotheriums and ler in question was issued. Gorman, of Maryland, had a hundred and seventy-five persons of the Democratic faith in anoplotheriums in the Field museum, she is about to add the remains of a the government printing office-and the same number in the Washington navy very recherche elotherium just capard. That Richardson, of Tenness-ee ad seventy-five people in the govera-nent printing office, which facts were tes tured by Professor Farrington in the and. heart of the Dakota Bad Lands. Gotham's only visible offset to this star ified to before the Pritchard senatorial nvestigating committee. That the rem-unit of the force employed in the last attraction in natural history is the megalocephalous Tammany tiger. census—some ninety in all— every one Democrats but two, was quietly classified

According to Weyler, Canovas fast and scattered through the government August as much as told McKinley to epartments, where they are now, with go to. Why didn't the president acout competitive examination. cept this invitation in the name of humanity and occupy Havana?

TOLD BY THE STARS.

Daily Horoscope D: awn by Ajacchus,

The Tribune Astrologer. Astrolabe Cast: 2.34 a. m. for Wednes day, December 15, 1897.

歃 3 de. A child born on this day will not be able o see spots on the sun. The board of cortrol ought to be in fa-vor of the reduction in membership. It will give each member of the board an

opportunity to talk longer at the meet-The actor does not often talk through his own hat, but he frequently has to con-verse through the feminine plumed affair n order to reach the ear of the man on the back row.

The man whose ears are constantly ringing with talk of a new afternoon pa-per for Scrinton, must be the same fellow who saw the "woman in black" a few withy and accord with the administra tion in power, for the reason that they have exclusive charge of the details of the work for which both the administraenti ago

Ajacchus' Advice.

It is not a good plan to be in too much of a hurry in this life. The train running sixty miles an hour generally gets the worst shaking up when an obstruction is incountered.

tains in the public departments of the government, where those in authority among the civil rank and file are not in close touch with the administration in Examine closely the individual who labels himself a good man and see that the

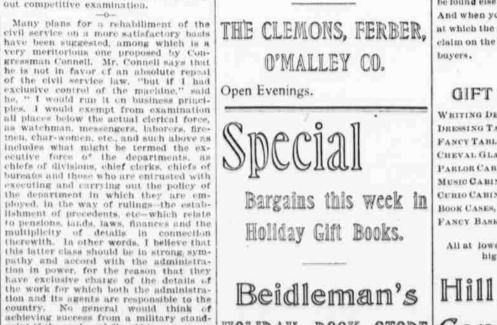
point if the rank and file of his army were opposed to his policy or disloyal to his flag. So likewise, the same principle ob-

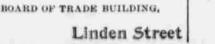
Scranton is the third largest city in thi uate and occupies third place for the de velopment of manufactures and progress generally. Shall it be said that we are the poorest and least progressive in music? Even little Allentown with 35,000 inhabitants, supports by popular sub-scription a full brass band and orchestra as large as any two in this city com-bined. Will it be acknowledged that binoel. Scranton, the Electric City, cannot sup port a string quartette?

Regarding the regret expressed by quitnumber since the announcement of the ostponement of the chamber concerts s sincere I believe that there will be no difficulty in raising the necessary amount by January I, 1898, when it is intended to give the first concert. Respectfully,



China, Cut Glass or Bric-a-Brac. Umbrella Stands, Jardinier and Pedestels. Dinner, Tea and Toilet Sets.





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