

The Scranton Tribune

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The Philadelphia organ of the bush-whackers is notified that The Tribune experiences no embarrassment in being placed by the Philadelphia Press. It is neither the Press nor those for whom it offers counsel that cause Republican majorities in Pennsylvania to decline or to disappear.

Getting at the Facts. The Philadelphia Press printed yesterday the first of a series of letters from Cuba written by its chief Washington correspondent, Mr. E. J. Gibson, of whom the Press says editorially: "Mr. Gibson is well known for his careful, conscientious, painstaking and accurate work. He is universally recognized as one of the most reliable and trustworthy men in journalism. His character, information and poise and his habit of going to the root of things in his investigations will inspire confidence in the thoroughness of his examination and in the correctness of his reports. He has not gone to Cuba to forward dramatic or sensational dispatches, but to see the real conditions as they are, to learn the exact situation and prospects, and to detail them with the sobriety and fidelity for which he is distinguished."

Mr. Gibson's initial letter concerns mainly the status of the Spanish army. He cites official and semi-official figures to prove that of Weyler's splendid army of 200,000 regulars, only 51,500 effective men remain. "These," he adds, "must garrison the fortified towns, protect railroads and sugar plantations, and so on. It can easily be seen that with such a small force of effective men, when Weyler had 200,000 regulars, exclusive of volunteers, Blanco cannot be expected to accomplish much; more particularly when he is without money and supplies. The greater number of the troops have not been paid in ten months, and all of them, excepting officers, have not been paid in eight months. Evidently much could not be expected of such troops and little or nothing is being accomplished."

Mr. Gibson attests the complete failure of the autonomy movement to make visible impression in checking the insurrection. Of ten embassies sent to treat with insurgent leaders in different districts, eight were executed and two spared. The latter were Cubans forced to bear the overtures of Spain under penalty of death. General Garcia on this account permitted them to return alive. Mr. Gibson talked with the Cuban who went at the request of Consul General Lee to try to save Ruiz's life, and who arrived too late to accomplish that end. This man says that Ruiz was condemned by a court-martial at which Rodriguez, commander of the western provinces, and another Rodriguez, commander of Havana province, as well as Aranguren, were present. According to Mr. Gibson's version there does not appear to have been any excuse for Ruiz in disregarding the warning he received in advance.

Mr. Gibson concludes his first letter with these words: "The fact that after spurning the offer of aid as unnecessary the Spanish leaders have been forced to accept such offers demonstrates that the change going on here is not an improvement, but in the contrary direction. That is the opinion of the United States officials without exception in every part of Cuba. I make that statement on written authority from these men. Nearly all of them have been in Cuba since the war broke out. They are trustworthy men. As far as they are concerned, one and all, the war in Cuba is no nearer an end than at any previous time, excepting as the Spanish officer said whom I have quoted, Spain is so much nearer the point where she can no longer keep up the struggle."

In other words, the time for effective intervention is rapidly drawing nigh.

The Ohio Senatorship. The abstention of ten Republican members of the Ohio legislature from the preliminary caucus at Columbus Saturday night is naturally interpreted as an indication that the claims of the opponents of Senator Hanna have not been exaggerated. The managers of Mr. Hanna's campaign for re-election, including Mr. Hanna himself, deny that this interpretation is justified and claim that the senatorial caucus will bring out the requisite majority. They also profess to believe that should these absentees continue to bolt the Hanna movement a sufficient number of votes will come from the Democratic side to insure a Hanna victory.

his party than would be a Republican defeat. State Chairman Elkin having written to the Hazleton Sentinel a personal denial that the Republican state committee has issued any literature since last October, that paper repeats that up to December 20, 1897, it had been continuously in receipt of plate matter and coming to it precisely as the state committee's plate matter had come. Furthermore, since there was no notification by Mr. Elkin when the state committee went out of the plate business and when the Stone literary bureau assumed charge, the Sentinel argues that it was justified in assuming a suspicious connection between the two outwardly identical forms of literary evangelization. Mr. Elkin's denial of course settles the matter; but it might be well for him hereafter to let the public know when the mailing lists of the state committee are handed over to the agents of a particular candidate.

Spain's Rejected Overture. Senor Antonio Govin, one of the Cubans named by Blanco as a member of his autonomy cabinet, declines without thanks. In an interview promulgated at Atlanta, in which city he resides, he says: "When the peace of Zanjón was signed it became evident that the old method of governing Cuba was at an end. The people of Cuba are of Spanish blood, and naturally there is that tradition of race which made many of them feel kindly to the old peninsula. These men deemed that it was possible to be true to Cuba and loyal to Spain at the same time, and they organized the autonomist party, whose purpose was the preservation of Cuban interests. We knocked at the doors of Madrid in vain for recognition. We pleaded with those in authority to recognize the changed condition of things, and if our voice had been hearkened to, previous to the coming of General Weyler, there would have been a chance to build up Cuba as the oldest daughter of Spain. But the cries from Cuba were ignored and a policy was entered upon, the sad results of which are seen today in the devastation which spreads over the island and in the loss of human life which has come upon the people of Cuba."

"I held my place of honor which my party had given to me until I saw that the die was cast, and that there was nothing more to do, save to leave the result to the arbitrament of the sword. It is with this feeling that I took my departure from Cuba and when, as I stood upon the deck of the receding American steamer, I watched for the first time the Spanish flag floating over Morro Castle I declared that when I returned, that flag should not be floating there. Since that time, I had been living quietly in this city, forming no acquaintances outside of the few Cuban friends who knew me, and awaiting some new development which would make it possible for me to return home. Now that the policy of General Weyler has been abandoned and a different one has been adopted by General Blanco, so pacific overtures have been made which would have been gladly listened to two years ago. If they had been made then, what an amount of blood and treasure would have been saved; but unfortunately, the offer has been delayed until Cuba is in no position to try it."

"In the first place, the autonomy itself, which has been offered, is no autonomy at all. It leaves Cuba but a tributary to Spain, to be drained of its resources for the uses of the home government, and to be allowed only the remainder, if there should be any, for local purposes. Autonomy, as I conceive it, is something very different. It is an independent government bearing equal relations to the parent country, with a responsible cabinet and a responsible cabinet. Instead of that the autonomy offered is organized in the first place under the most favorable circumstances with a majority chosen by Spain herself and through influences governed by Spain, while the native Cuban would at all times be in the minority. Even if this objection did not exist and the chamber provided for were elected direct by the people of Cuba, such election under the present circumstances would be impossible, because the Cubans are either in the field or in exile, while those who would take part in such elections would be Spaniards or people under Spanish influence. I would esteem it a high honor to be called into a Cuban cabinet, having its initiation from among the people of Cuba, but I would scorn to be a member of the cabinet whose constituent parts would be looked upon as the hirelings of Spain. It is an indignity, an indignity indeed, to ask a Cuban to accept such a place, and a Cuban who would accept such a place is doing himself an indignity."

It is now alleged by the Spanish officials that Senor Govin has been over to the autonomy movement in spite of the foregoing statement and will qualify this week. Such a result would not redound to Senor Govin's credit nor aid the prospects of Spain. Dignified rebuke is administered by the Washington Star to Bishop Potter when, taking notice of his recent assertion that the United States had reached and passed the summit of its prosperity it says: "Exactly what constitutes prosperity in a country is a topic too extensive to be settled off-hand. Commercial progress, intellectual progress and the physical comfort of the masses have all to be considered in connection with other points, and it is rather rash to assume that the continent has thus soon exhausted itself where there is so much to be accomplished." There is reason to fear that Bishop Potter has mental dyspepsia.

In its files in the seven months from June 1, '97, to Jan. 1, '98, the Buffalo Express has counted 77 cases of lynching in the United States and is by no means sure that the list is complete. We wonder whether there have been one-half that many legal executions. Probably not.

In Pennsylvania there are 1172 building and loan associations, with \$119,000,000 accumulated wealth, \$100,000,000 outstanding loans and \$9,900,000 gain credits. A good New Year resolution would be to get into one of these associations and share in its benefits. There is nothing superior to a good one as a means of inculcating habits of thrift.

Although the state convention does not meet until June 2, primaries for the election of delegates have been called in Luzerne county for January 13. The Wilkes-Barre Record emphatically denounces this as a "snip" call, alleging that it is issued at the behest of Andrews, Elkin and their colleagues for the purpose of forestalling an intelligent expression of party sentiment on the gubernatorial question. Possibly. But how does Mr. Leisenring stand in these premises? Is he afraid to await "an intelligent expression?"

Some New Books and Magazines.

FROM the collection of the West Chester State Normal school, Professor G. M. Phillips, the principal of that school, has selected and the Lippincott Press printed in a neat pamphlet for private distribution a number of "Historical Letters" which will possess much interest for students of American history. These letters chiefly relate to actors and incidents connected with the Revolutionary war, among the writers being Benedict Arnold, General Gates, "Pickens," Smith, Sullivan, Irvine, Wayne, Putnam, Schuyler, Greene, Lafayette and Washington, but there are also letters by General Winfield Scott, General McClellan, President Taylor and Jefferson Davis in which the great tragedy of the Civil war is foreshadowed. The compilation is sufficiently valuable to put the publisher under distinct obligations to its compiler.

Just what grievance Clyde Fitch has against the Four Hundred is unexplained to us in a great correspondence and conversation purporting to represent an inside view of "The Smart Set" (Chicago: Horner & Stone & Co.). But it is evident that Mr. Fitch considers human nature rather worse at the upper end of Fifth avenue than in the lower Bowery. The "Smart Set" may be had in many particulars, as a set; but it is regarded as a matter of choice as to which of the members individually are hopelessly depraved.

Among the almanacs compiled by the largest publishing houses none has attained a higher standing than the Chicago Daily News Almanac and Political Register, the fourteenth issue of which is now in print. Among the improvements the usual statistical information given in volumes of this kind with encyclopedic treatment of the five continents of the year, as, for example, the annexation of Hawaii; the eastern war; deep water ways from the lakes to tide water; Alaska with its gold and herds; the international commerce; the Cuban revolt; the Venezuelan dispute; the international monetary commission; the timber supply and the coal strike of 1897.

A description with vivid illustrations of the real Klondike, the beginning of Harold Frederic's latest novel which is entitled "Klondike" and the anonymous contribution continuing the narration of the history of an imaginary war with Spain which involves us also with England and France and the story of a great land battle results in a few hours in the loss of 10,000 lives, are among the contents of the cosmopolitan this month which especially attracts attention. The cosmopolitan continues to be the most vital of our magazines.

In "Lost-to-Kah" Verner Z. Reed exhibited an artistic comprehension of the atmospheric and color possibilities of the Southwest which is now again in evidence in his "Lost to Kah" (New York: Continental Publishing Co.). These eight sketches are of unequal merit but all are true to the locality of which they treat and exhibit conspicuously the romance of a region which, regarded for its early history, might be regarded as a hopelessly barren field for the novelist.

McClure's for January contents itself with featuring the Dana war reminiscences, the Anthony Hope serial, "The Prisoner of Zenda" and a character sketch of Mark Twain by Robert Barr. But there are several other bright things in this number that will reward a perusal, especially a paper on "The Life of the Railroad Man," written by a brakeman, and a number of reminiscences of John Brown, penned by a life-long friend of the martyr of Ossawatimie.

Another Kipling story, a paper on bird life by Fred A. Ober and an interesting special article on Greater New York, serials by Stockton, Trowbridge, Stoddard, seasonal verse by John Bennett, Carolyn Wells, Edith M. Thomas and other favorite writers, and much other good literature for boys and girls characterize the January St. Nicholas, which begins the new year evidently with the determination to keep at the head of the procession of juvenile periodicals.

Beauty, utility and value are happily combined in Hood's Sarasparilla coupon calendar for 1898. The lovely child's head in an embossed gold frame, surrounded by sprays of flowers in mosaic, the voluminous plaid in blue with clear figures, and the coupons by means of which many valuable books and other articles may be obtained make up one of the most desirable calendars we have seen. It can be had of any druggist.

A little volume which ought to be put in the hands of all persons accustomed to write for the press comes from D. Appleton & Co. and is devoted to explaining the mysteries of "Punctuation." Its author, T. Horace Teall, was one of the editors of the Standard dictionary, and in the present context he has endeavored to introduce a little common sense into the vestibule to correct writing.

Few hand-somer or more convenient calendars than that issued by N. W. Ayer & Son, the Philadelphia advertising agents, have made their appearance this year. It contains, in addition to the calendar, short, pithy and valuable talks to business men upon a subject of the first importance and its price, 25 cents, includes delivery by mail to any address in perfect condition.

A paper by Sara Y. Stevenson detailing reminiscences of Mexico under the brief sway of Maximilian, one by George B. Gordon describing some notable recent archeological discoveries in Honduras, and the opening chapters of a new serial by Dr. S. Weir Mitchell are the outstanding features of the January Century.

Alaska from the tourist's point of view is entertainingly exploited in the January Godey's, which moreover, with eight interesting short stories, a novel, and half a dozen timely illustrated special articles, offers a generous literary bargain at the price, one dime.

We acknowledge with pleasure the receipt of the Pottsville Evening Chronicle almanac for 1898, which is small but full of valuable information relating to Schuylkill county.

A TALE OF TWO CITIES.

Van Twiller, in the Record. I see it announced with a flourish of trumpets in the Scranton papers that the cornerstones of the big silk mill of Reiding, David & Schoen has been laid with appropriate ceremonies. The ceremonies were witnessed by the board of trade, the cornerstones being laid by Captain May, president of the board. There were speeches galore, in which everybody felicitated everybody else, and a joint resolution was passed by the board of trade, the cornerstones of the city of Scranton on the newly acquired industry. And well they might, for this promise to be one of the greatest establishments in the world, and the country, and will give employment to hundreds of men and women. And Scranton secured it after Wilkes-Barre had dawdled for 1898, which is small but full of valuable information relating to Schuylkill county.

Long life to that board, say I. It deserves to prosper, for it possesses pluck and energy, and courage and business tact. It is not afraid to work, either. It doesn't go into connivance of fright whenever a stranger comes along with a business proposition. There's nothing, namely, pally about it. It is not suffering from the dry rot of over-conservatism. The leprosy of suspicion does not paralyze its energies and drag it down into inactivity and decay. It does not regard every proposition for the establishment of a new industry as a gold brick swindle. The money it catches on to is not a while doesn't scare it out of business. On the contrary, it keeps right on, and what it loses on one unsuccessful industry it gains on the next. That's the kind of a board to have. That's the kind of a board Wilkes-Barre ought to have. The material is here. The brains are here. The money is here—a dollar for every Scranton cent. The facilities are here; the labor is here. In fact Wilkes-Barre can furnish everything that Scranton does in this connection and go her several better. Why, then, don't we get these industries that are continually going to Scranton? If you've read the above I do not think you will have much difficulty in discovering the cause.

THE TWENTIETH CENTURY PROBLEM.

Rochester Democrat and Chronicle. Students of mental phenomena might find it worth their while to endeavor to identify the peculiarity of the human mind which makes it so different from that of the lower animals. To account for this fact as merely a result of sporadic and irregular causes of stupidity seems to us unphilosophical. There never was any possible question as to when the twentieth century begins. The student who alive ought to be able to see that since there never was a year 0, with which to begin a century, the first century must have begun with the year 1, and every subsequent century must begin with the year 1 of that century. But that it is not merely the exceptionally dull man who fails to get this through his head everybody knows.

Of the thousands of newspapers in the country there is probably not one that does not receive at least two or three times a year a well-written and properly worded request, evidently prepared by a person of education, to "kindly publish in your valuable paper the date of the commencement of the next century." One widely-read New York newspaper finds it necessary to answer this question in its "Notes and Queries" column almost every Sunday. Bring up this matter in conversation wherever a dozen or so persons of average education and intelligence are gathered together, and you will almost invariably find somebody who has an idea that the twentieth century begins on January 1, 1900, and somebody else who insists that it must begin with the year 1 of that century. The tendency to create a question, where no question exists, as to this matter of the beginning of the twentieth century, is certainly not exceptional, and therefore cannot be explained by referring it to some exceptional quality of mind in the individual who creates and puzzles over it.

Any human being, capable of counting a hundred, could arrange 2000 silver dollars in twenty piles of one hundred dollars each without once doubting whether or not he ought to begin the twentieth pile with the hundredth dollar of the nineteenth pile. Why is it, then, that so many such human beings cannot arrange 2000 years in twenty piles of a hundred years each without immediately falling into the gravest doubt as to whether or not they ought to begin the twentieth pile of years with the hundredth year of the nineteenth pile? The question, it seems to us, is worthy of philosophical consideration.

Such a choice stock to select from cannot be found elsewhere in this part of the state. And when you consider the moderate prices at which the goods are marked is a further claim on the attention and consideration of buyers.

GIFT SUGGESTIONS.

- WRITING DESKS, LOUNGES, DRESSING TABLES, WORK TABLES, FANCY TABLES, EASY CHAIRS, CHEVAL GLASSES, GILT CHAIRS, PAIR OF CABINETS, ISLAND CHAIRS, MUSIC CABINETS, ROCKERS, CUBIC CABINETS, SEATING STANDS, BOOK CASES, PEDESTALS, FANCY BASKETS, TABOURETTES.

All at lowest prices consistent with the high quality of the goods. MR. AND MRS. VERY MUCH PLEASED TALKING ABOUT THEIR CHRISTMAS CHINA BOUGHT AT OUR STORE. Hill & Connell At 121 North Washington Avenue. 510 and 512 LACKAWANNA AVENUE. Scranton, Pa.

GOLDSMITH'S BAZAAR.

Taking Inventory

Will be one of our principal occupations this week, but the Bazaar will be open just the same, and all of the so-called bargains that you may read about in other advertisements can be obtained here.

In accordance with our usual custom, thousands of dollars worth of reliable merchandise will be laid aside during inventory for our

January Clearance Sale

therefore, we will have some interesting store news for you in a very few days.

GOLDSMITH BROS. & CO.

NEW YEAR'S GREETING.

RELIABLE Clothing at reliable prices, has always been our motto. Quality unexcelled, prices the lowest. Your money back if you want it; and the same price to everybody. Open Evenings Until After the Holidays.

BOYLE & MUCKLOW, 416 LACKAWANNA AVENUE.

FINLEY'S Diaries

Special Sale of FANCY SILKS

and Calendars at REYNOLDS BROTHERS, STATIONERS, ENGRAVERS, HOTEL JERMYN BUILDING, 139 Wyoming Avenue.

We offer about 1,000 yards Fancy Silk, choice designs in 3 lots, including

Brocades, Persians, Roman Stripes, etc.

in lengths ranging from five to twenty yards each. Former Price. \$1.00 to \$1.65.

LOT 1.....59 Cents LOT 2.....69 Cents LOT 3.....88 Cents

COAL AT RETAIL.

Coal of the best quality for domestic use and of all sizes, including Buckwheat and Birdseye, delivered in any part of the city at the lowest price. Orders received at the Office, first floor, Commonwealth building, room No. 41 telephone No. 264 or at the mine, telephone No. 272, will be promptly attended to. Dealers supplied at the mine. WM. T. SMITH.

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