the Scranton Tribune

Published Daily, Except Sunday, by the Tribun-bilishing Company, at Fifty Cents a Month.

ANTERNO AT THE POSTOFFICE AT SCRANTON PA. AT

SCRANTON, JANUARY 5, 1898. The interesting news cames from the Leisenring literary bureau that "since the withdrawal of Congressman Connell from the gubernatorial contest, the Leisenring people feel confident of securing a majority of the Lackawanpa delegation, if not all of it." What curious things one hears these days.

The Next Board of Control. As may have been seen in the pub-Ashed call, delegate elections will be held on next Saturday afternoon for the choice of men to represent the different election districts of the city in the Republican city convention which Music hall next Tuesday forencon, to place in nomination candidates for the the authorities in power. following offices to be voted for at the next municipal election, on Tuesday, February 15, namely: Two school directors to serve one year; two to serve two years, and two to serve three years. Important as these nominations are likely to be in view of the probable ousting of the present board of twenty-one, and with as are the interests thus affected, the curious spectacle is presented of almost atter public indif-It is time this were punc-

school board in a city like Scranton is more nearly an omnipotent body than any other governmental organization in existence. It is absolutely the master of the people in the matter of finances. being authorized to appropriate funds by simple resolution which can it desired be passed at the drop of a hat. The taxpayers, it is important to bear in mind, are almost wholly at its merev. While wiiful fraud can be punished in the courts if detected and prosecuted for the considerable extravagance which is the result of innocence, ignorance or log-rolling on the board there is no redress whatever, and to it there is almost no limit. There has been grave complaint on this score already, justly or unjustly; but let the board of twenty-one give place to a board of six, and unless those six or a working majority of them are men of exceptional honor, sagacity and firmness, this complaint will inevitably grow in emphasis as the public learns to comprehend the greater possibilities for manipulation in a board of decreased membership.

It is easy to define theoretically the kind of men who ought to be nominated next Tuesday and in whose interest delegates ought to be elected at Saturday's primaries. These six candidates should first of all be absolutely honest and incorruptible. If concerning any candidate there is a doubt on this point, he ought promptly to be turned down. The six men entrusted with well-nigh omnipotent control over the \$300,000 annually required to operate the city's educational system ought certainly to be men whom the taxpayers would be willing to trust when their own backs are turned. Next, they should be intelligent, preferably parents of children who now attend the public schools, and owners of suffic ient property to appreciate the necessity for prudent economy; and lastly, if among the candidates offering themselves for selection are any who have had honorable and extended familiarity with the workings of the old board, these, other things being equal, should be preferred.

It is to be expected, of course, that the Republican convention will desire to nominate men who have been loyal Republicans, but emphasis need not be put on party lines unduly. The board of control has had in the past rather toe much partisan and factional politics of the picayune kind; it ought to be within the wish and within the power of the governing forces of this great and growing city to secure at the coming reorganization of the board a class of servants who to the limit of their ability will place the welfare of the school system above all other considerations, private or partisan, and who will possess the back bone to hew to the line, letting the chips fall where

We suspect that those good friends who are werrying lest the reporting of Colonel Ingersoll's lecture might upset Christianity are agitated unnecessarily.

A Government Worth While.

The reported stand of Great Britain for equal rights in China and special privileges to none will be welcomed by the civilized world. Supported as it is by the most powerful navy affoat and the co-operation of Japan, a nation effectively equipped for either peace or war, it will undoubtedly cause the land this ves of continental Europe to pause, and especially will it bear down heavily upon the erratic ambitions of the conceited "war lord" of Germany, If England's course in the Turko-Grecian imbroglio seemed hesitant and unworthly of her Anglo-Saxon traditions, old demand for fair play in the Orient will do much to regain forefeited

sure, England's course in this has been governed as much by interest as by abstract love of The capture by either Ger-Russia of special and excluleges along the Chinese coast istitute even a greater menitish sovereignty in India dand's maritime interests in and n would be involved against genera States were a European ize possession of a strip of power n South America. England, coast lan parent of the Monroe docthe origin simply applying its printrine, is no n self-protection in Asia. ciple to her rence to South America We say in refe owers must keep hands that all other. off. England says in reference to China that it any European power gets powers must share a privilege all the it; none must be permitted to gain an adviatage over the others. Our doc-trine his our necessities; England's doctrine fits her's, but the two are cut from the same cloth and respect for

nic majesty has asserted itself in this matter constitutes a valuable object lesson for the government of the United States, which under a far more formidable menace and under circumstances appealing with infinitely greater emphasis to the universal instinct of hu-Spain in Cuba paltered and faltered miserable make-shifts. One year ago cowardice concerning the Turk; but today England by manly statesmanship returns with interest the shame to us.

It is significant that one of the first measures introduced after the organization of the present Ohio legislature ame from Representative Jones, of Canton, the home of President McKinley, and was a resolution directing the Ohio senators and requesting the Ohio representatives in congress to vote for the recognition of the belligerency of Cuba, and for its independence as soon has been summoned to assemble in as practicable. Thus does the real sentiment of the people find its way to

Contingencies

While on general principles it is unnecessary to cross a bridge until it is arrived at, a measure of academic interest attaches to the point raised by a correspondent of the Sun in reference to the possible legal status of the Cuban insurgents in two contingencies which he outlines.

Ex driving Pando out of the Cauto river the Cubans have captured possession of a naval outlet, thus disposing of the contention of Grant and Mc-Kinley that their's is wholly an inland insurrection. Now suppose they should despatch from the mouth of the Cauto river a merchant vessel bearing the flag of the Cuban republic, loaded with a cargo of sugar or other produce of the island and bound for the port of New York. The Sun correspondent wants to know what the government at Washington would do; whether it would recognize or deny the right of ustom house, to dispose of her cargo or among international thieves, ind to clear for Cuba.

This question, it seems, arose one before. In 1815 when the Spanish American colonies were in revolt, the collector of the port of New Orleans had it brought to the attention of President Madison's cabinet, and on July 3 of that year he was advised by Secretary of the Treasury Dallas in hese words:

There is no principle of the law of na-ions which requires us to exclude from our ports the subjects of a foreign power in a state of insurrection against their own government. It is not incumbent apon us to take notice of crimes and offences which are committed against the municipal laws of another country, whether they are classed in the highest grade of treeson or in the lowest grade of misdemeanor. Piracy is an offense against the law of nations, and every ivilized government undertakes to pun-sh the pirate when brought within its urisdiction; but an act of revolt or rebellion against a sovereign must not be confounded with an act of piracy, which is denominated hostility against the human race. Any merchant vessel, therefore, which has not committed an offence against the law of nations, being freighted with a lawful cargo and conforming in all respects to the laws of the United States, is entitled to an entry at our Custom House, whatever flag she may bear. She is also entitled to take on bear. board a return cargo, and to depart from the United States with the usual clear-

There is also a second possibility, although hardly a probability. The Cuban republic might fit out a war ship, which might capture a Spanish vessel and tow it into an American port. The question which would then arise would be whether our government should accord to these Cuban sailors the rights of belligerents or hang them to the yardarms as pirates. It is fair to assume from its past complicity with Spain and from its inexplicable opposition to the recognition of Cuban belligerency, that it would favor the latter course but it may also be assumed that it would probably be deterred from this course by fear of public sentiment, which would never tolerate such an act.

These problems as yet are wholly academic. That is to say, they are interesting for mental speculation and exercise but have no practical existence in the domain of affairs. More to the point is the hard fact that thousands of Cubans are slowly starving to death while our government acts as Spain's almoner but lifts no hand to remedy the cause of this frightful suffering and mortality.

Among the enterprises planned for 898 by the Pittsburg Dispatch in assodiation with a number of other representative newspapers is one which conemplates sending the well-known corespondent, Frank G. Carpenter, on a 25,000-mile tour of South America, with view to the proper description before American readers of this great continent which destiny obviously intends to be in time the chief foreign market of American exports. The Dispatch has been since the beginning a first class newspaper but in this feat it will surpass itself.

If the Philadelphia Inquirer and those back of it would practice the kind of politics that it preaches when cornered the possibilities of political trouble in Pennsylvania in this year of grace would perceptibly diminish.

The impression that Hanna's fight is McKinley's fight probably proceeds chiefly from Hanna. Mr. Hanna ought not to expect the president of the United States to expose himself to a factional fire in his home state.

We infer from the remarks of Senot Pidal, president of the Spanish chamber of deputies, that only Uncle Sam's | the superior size preserves him from an almighty rough licking.

Segator Foraker, when asked if he ouldn't go to Columbus to help Hanna out, replied that he had "a very sick boy at home." We trust that Foraker, fils, is better now.

It is possible that one of the reasons shy Colonel Ingersoll is an agnostic is that there is money in it for him.

trine fits our necessities; England's doctrine fits her's, but the two are cut from the same cloth and respect for one must necessarily induce respect for the other.

The promptness and firmness with which the government of her firstan-The collected figures for 1897 show

why 1897 was so poor a year in the steel rall trade. But renewals also were smaller last year than usual and this state of skimped equipment cannot be permitted to endure much longer. While new trackage construction in great volume is no longer to be exmanity, has in its attitude toward pected in this country, especially during the uncertainty as to whether and sought refuge from duty behind steam will or will not be superseded by electricity for long-distance traffic. we were shaming England for her larger renewals are assured and these will inevitably give a better tone to the rail trade of 1898 than has characterized that trade for two or three years past.

"Is it possible," the New York Tribune asks, "that congress is serious when it makes not health, not manhood, not moral worth the test of a candidacy for American citizenship, but the ability to read or write twentyfive words of the constitution in some Wallachian lingo or in Hindostanee?" It is both possible and probable; and until critics of this test come forward with a better one they will gain few

Both the Wilkes-Barre Record and the Wilkes-Barre Times protest vigorously against the "snap" call issued in Luzerne county for the election of delegates to the state convention. "It looks a little," says the latter paper, "like an effort on the part of some one to get control of the delegates for some sort of a deal or bargain." These journals might join in a request to Mr. Leisenring to explain.

It is noticeable that President Mc-Kinley does not go to the civil service commission when he wants a man to likewise innumerable county offices. do confidential political work for the administration in Ohio. An honest popular vote in Ohio, con-

Great Britain's position in the division of the Chinese swag would seem that vessel to enter at the New York to make compulsory a little more hon-

fined to Republicans, upon the ques-

tion of Senator Hanna's candidacy, if

it could be had would probably be in-

Authentic News Regarding Cuba.

THE Philadelphia Press published yesterday the second of a series of letters from Cuba written after personal inquiry by the chief of its Washington bureau, Mr. E. J. Gibson. In the first letter Mr. Gibson showed the crippled condition of the Spanish army, reduced in less than three years from 200,000 to 51,500 effective regulars. He also stated that the Spanish ake no prisoners of war and maintain take no prisoners of war and maintain no hospitals or prison camps for cap-tured Cubans, putting all their captiles at once to the sword. In the second let-ter he considers the autonomy proposi-tion and gives the substance of witnessed interviews, first with the members of the new Autonomist council, of which Senor Jose Galvez is president; second, with five leading Spaniards, Conservatives, who are opposed to autonomy; and lastly, with twelve leading citizens, Cubans and Spaniards, chosen to represent the drift of unofficial and what is this council. drift of unofficial and what in this country we should call non-partisan opinion. These interviews were taken in the presence of Congressman King of Utah, who is in Cuba on a mission of investigation, and were secured by letters of introduction from Consul General Lee.

The Autonomists spoke through Secretary Congosto, formerly Spanish consul-at Philadelphia, whom Mr. Gibson describes as the brains of the Blanco regime. Secretary Congosto said the elec-tions under autonomy would be held in six weeks or so, after the Spanish officials had made ready the registration lists. Then he would return to Philadel-phia, being positive that peace would result in due course of time. At the conference with Senor Galvez and his asso-clates of the "autonomy cabinet," they expressed freely their belief that autoomy will be a success. They said that be scheme went beyond anything asked of Spain in the way of autonomy before the war began. That fact and the fur-ther one that the leading offices would be filled by men formerly trusted by the Cubaus, they believed, would win over those now opposed to the plan. If once In working order they said that 40 per cent, of the insurgents, who are whites, would accept the new order of things and cease to fight. This would leave the remainder of the insurgents without leaders, and that would end the war. But they admitted that the success of the plan would depend on its acceptance 40 per cent. of the insurgents.

At the conference with the Spanish leaders who accept the Marquis de Apezteguia as their chief they also expressed themselves freely and frankly. In the first place, they declared that Galvez and his associates did not repre-Galvez and his associates did not represent the Cubans. The representative Cubans, they said, were either fighting in the Cuban army or they are in exile. There are no Cuban leaders in Havana these Spaniards assert. "Galvez is an old man and penniless," said one of the Spaniards, "and the temptation of a salary of \$8,000 and a place of high honor has led him to surrender to Congosto's biandishments. One of the other cabinet officers has accepted a \$10,000 bribe. One or two of them are honestly misled Rus or two of them are honestly misled. But they represent no one except themselves. The Cubans repudiate able-bodied men The Cubans repudiate able-bodied men who remain on the island and do not take the insurgent side." That opinion was expressed by the other Spaniards at the conference, and by individual Cu-bans; hence Mr. Gibson was forced to believe that the new cubinet officers are without a following. without a following.

Mr. Gibson at this point says: "I can Mr. Gibson at this point says: "I can hardly write patiently about the monstrous crime of the century, the killing by starvation of about 469,000 Cubans, and I will go into that in another letter. I have seen within the last twenty-four hours the most horrible sights of my life in the places where these reconcentrados are in the hast stages of starvation. Two are in the last stages of starvation. Two of them died last night on the public square, in front of the hotel where I am staying—the most public place in the city. I mention this in passing merely to show that this awful work of killing off the that this awful work of killing off the Cubans by starvation is still in progress. But the Cubans outside of the insurgent ranks, are nearly all dead." "If Weyler had remained in control another year," remarked Dr. Brunner, of the United States Marine Hospital Service, in conversation with Mr. Gibson on Christmas Day, "he would have exterminated all of the Cubans not inside the lines of the insurgents." These facts go to show, in Mr. Gibson's opinion, that so far as representing the Cubans are concerned, the new cabinet counts for nothing. The Spaniards at the conference said further that they based their opposition to the scheme of autonomy on the ground that if it is a genuine offer it will place the control of the island in the hands of the colored men and insurgents, and if the colored men and insurgents, and if the offer is not genuine, the result will be a new rebellion and a worse condition of things than exists today. They preferred annexation to the United States to either horn of the autonomy dilemma.

As representing the insurgent point oview Mr. Gibson says: "I was shown to

ban ranks. The men who have been sent to offer autonomy have been shot by the insurgents. The pitcous faces of 400,000 Cubans, men, women and children, starved to death, cry to the insurgents for revenge. Many of the mothers and sisters of the men in the insurgent army suffered that horrible death. Thousands are still dying every week from that same cause. Is it reasonable to suppose that men who have been fighting two years and a half, and who know that the Spaniards are almost in the last ditch, are going to surrender now to accept a plan of autonomy opposed by the Spaniards, and which rests on nothing more than the decree of Sagasta, who may be overthrown any day, and the decree cancelled? It is a most unwarranted assumption. It will not deceive any intelligent man who does not want to be deceived."

THE SCRANTON TRIBUNE.

OF VITAL IMPORTANCE.

From the Witkes-Barre Record. The question of vital importance to the Republican masses of this state is, not when the convention shall be held nor by which faction controlled, but rather the which faction controlled, but rather the character of the nominees for governor and other offices, the methods of their selection, and the influences that shall dominate. The spirit of discontent is widespread in the party, and it will be an exceedingly easy matter for the state convention to precipitate a disastrous revolt. vention to precipitate a disastrous revolt The so-called independents are not mai-contents or party wreckers, and they are not irreconcilable. They are Repul who revolt only when the party is pros-tituted to base ends and selfish purposes by the leaders. The success of the state by the leaders. The success of the state ticket is not all that depends upon the action of the next state convention. A full congressional delegation, twenty-five senators, all the members of the house of representatives, and a multitude of county officers are to be elected next year. A revolt against the state ticket might not prove fatal to the candidates for state offices but would cost the party the loss of a number of cost the party the loss of a number of members of congress in close districts.

The Republicans in countles like Luzerne, Lackawanna, Schuylkill, Carbon, Westmoreland, Fayette, Northumberland, can barely win under favorable auspices Loaded down with an unpopular ticket, they would have little hope of suc-cess. This will surely not be denied; the experience of last November proves that it is true. The Republicans of such counties as we have named will stand in their own light and jeopardize their party in their own counties if they do not send to the next state convention men who will strive in all earnestness to make a state ticket so strong and popular and satisfactory to the masses that it will prove a help to carry through the candidates for corgress, for the legisla-ture, and for county offices. A state tick-et should be so constituted that it will be a help and not a hindrance to the local tickets. If the all-potent leaders, who will probably control the next state convention, fail to give the party that kind of a ticket then they are unfit and un-worthy to be recognized as leaders of a great party.

AMERICA'S MISSION.

From a Lecture by Rev. Dr. Stafford. "Every nation in this world is in some sense a chosen people, and has some mis-sion assigned to it by Providence; some peculiar thought, idea, or principle which distinguishes and differentiates it from all other nations, which constitutes it in its individual being, and the workings and development and explanation of which constitutes the nation's life work and mission. Thus the Jews were the chosen people for the preserving and handing down in their fullness and purity of the original, revelations of God. The Greeks were a chosen people for the cultivation of art and philosophy, for the refinement of the senses and the elevation of the mind. The Romans were for the establishment and development of jurisprudence and law and state. The Greeks and Romans likewise fulfilled a providential mission in the establishment, the one in the Ferri the other in the West of an in the East, the other in the West, of an universal language, which was to be the medium of an universal religion. The American people are a chosen people, time the most difficult problems of gov ernment, of establishing upon a basis of natural justice and equity an ideal state -of showing the dialectic unity be tween authority and liberty and liberty and authority, and thus giving the world not only the highest conception, but the realization of the ideal state."

PECULIARLY FITTING.

From the Times-Herald. The report from Washington to the effect that President McKinley will send to the present congress a message recom-mending the establishment of a department of commerce and industry will be gratifying news to the vast commercial and industrial interests of this country, which have long contended for the creation of a new cabinet place to be devoted to this purpose. It is peculiarly fitting that this administration, which, more than any that have preceded it, sustains such close relations to the business interests of the country, should take measures for the creation of a federal department of commerce and industry.

SENATOR ANDREWS' AIM.

From the Philadelphia Press. If Senator Andrews succeeds in his present purpose to own the next gov-ernor, that \$60,000 "Lexow" bill won't be come forward and it will go through with a velocity paralyzing to those unacquaint-ed with the Andrews methods. Along with that will come the bills for the dozen

Untorgivable.

or so alleged investigating committees which made such a scandal at the last

They loved each other well, they swore And so to wed they wildly hoped; Wherefore it wasn't long before They laughed at locksmiths and eloped

Her pa forgave, as papas do: Her mamma, too, forgave and blessed His ma and pa forgave them, too, And brothers, sisters-all the rest,

And only two could not forgive: They've not forgiven to this day, They can't forgive themselves, they say -London Figuro.



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