SCRANTON, JANUARY 8, 1808.

In New York the Republicans are at each other's throats. In Pennsylvania almost everybody fears trouble. In Maryland the Republican legislature is deadlocked. In Ohio Gehenna is surpassed. Yet this year a congress is to be elected. Have Republicans gone

Tonight's Delegate Elections.

Between the hours of 4 and 7 o'clock p. m. the Republican voters of Scranton will today have opportunity to choose delegates to the city convention which on Tuesday next is to place in nemination six candidates for directors of the Scranton public school system. We take the liberty to repeat that this is a matter of the very first importsince, affecting intimately the welfare of every taxpayer, every parent and every child of school age in the city. On no past secasion in the municipal history of Scranton has there been a greater call for ears in the selection of delegates with a view to the numination of honest, broad gauged and inreligent men. While it is the general judgment of the people that party polities in the ordinary sense should not enter into the management of the pub-He schools, yet in usuanch as the regular machinery of the two principal parties will be used to place condicates for school controller before the people we h pe to see the very best material selected by both parties, so that no matter how the election may result the schools will be safe. To this end it is important that every Republican taxpayer make his inducates felt at tonight's principles. Turn down the positing places number, whoever he may to, and choose instead delegates who will stand for no man not fully qualinot to be entrusted with the maragement of this vital part of the city's

inequality in the present councilmanle representation, declares Brother Boyd, is why Wilkess Barre wants as new city charter. Then why not wait until you can get a good one?

As Others See Us.

We have received from a geneleman newly agrived in this city, having come to Scranten with a view to making it his permanent home, a letter containing some Chaughts worthy of public presentation. The writer had abselutely no axe to grind and, as will be s en, is impersonal, consequently from his letter we may learn how Scranton boks to a stranger. With this Introduction we let our correspondent express himself:

"Coming here, as I do, an entire stranger to Scrauton, and with the intention of becoming one of you, I have naturally endeavoyed to take in the various rituations, and particularly the political complexion of the city. I shall be proud indeed in very many respects to become a cirizen of this flouristing Mauries, its public enterprises and its varied manmoth industrial plants. make it, indeed, a designble place for a lover of the higher order of things. But the political aspect of Scranton seems, from what I can gather, when compared with that of other similar cities, simply deplorable. The reports that reach mo from every side concerning the corruption and crookedness practiced on every hand are disgusting and crough to make a man a pessimist for the rest of his days. Whether or not these reports are true, I know not and I would, indeed, that they were not but certain it is that with condithous as they should be, these reports would be impossible in a civilized community such as this.

'A citizen should be proud of his city. If he is not, there is something radically wrong either in him or his city. Dedinarily it is in the citizen, because were he ideal the city must necessarily he so. I mean by this that if every honest, intelligent man were to use his voice, not to the idle wind, but effectively, in matters of public welfare, there would be no occasion for lamenting public mismanagement. It seems only too true that our school boards and councils are manned by incompetent to say nothing of corrupt, men, of course with nome strong exceptions. And It is inevitable that the highest success cannot be reached either in school or city management with such nen in the scats of nower. The 'City Fathers' is a phrase that should carry with it honor and dignity and our councils should not be filled from the ranks of ignorant men. I mean this to be taken literally. Our brainlest, shrowdest, most practical men are abpoint ly essential in these bodies for

our highest municipal development. "We are now in the midst of local contests that will determine the future complexion of these bodies and that of the school board and it will be with the honest, clean-government-loving chizens to ray just what it will be. A government will not be worse than the people who are governed: that is, they are really bad, if the government is bad, else they are inactive and negligent so that, the bad element contrels. Hence a good citizen who takes second thought will not fail to do his byty; he will get out and work and vote when the proper time comes, and that time is now. No thoughtful Scrantonian will be inactive at this time, when important places are soon to be filled and possibly by men who

to say the least are unsuitable." While these words contain nothing which is not already understood by citizens who think, it is possible that their presentation by a new-comer as the impression created upon strangers by the present order of things will entitle them to carnest consideration. To see ourselves as others see us is often a direct preliminary to vigorous efforts at improvement.

If reports are true the domestic instability of ex-Mayor, Magowan of Trenton, N. J., has reached in less than three years the provephial end-two households broken up, two reputations zone and at last the erring

carded by the author of her trouble in a desperate effort to save himself. It is the way of the world; upon the woman the burden and the punishment: to the man, easy forgiveness, ready sympathy and help. In such matters only do we see a double stan-

TWELVE PAGES. It is evident that the struggle in Cuba in any serious military sense is over. The scene of war has now shifted to Madrid, where it is a battle between Weyler and Sagasta for the mastery of public sentiment. If Weyler wins, there will be war with the United States. If Sagasta wins, Spain will abandon Cuba as soon as satisfactory terms can be made. Sagasta, holding the election machinery and the other mechanism of power, will win and Cuba will be free. This is how it

A Ray of Common Sense.

"The truth is," remarks the New York Commercial Advertiser, "that civil service reform cannot stand upon sentiment. Its only solid basis of lasting progress is improvement of the public service. It has succeeded so far because it has increased the efficiency of lower and economized the time and advance just as far and fast as it does

Our contemporary has hold of the ight idea even though it be not wholly eccurate in its statement of fact. That the efficiency of the lower public servants has been increased by the kind of civil service reform now under inpection at Washington is open to coniderable doubt. In some departments it has, in others it has not, depending largely upon the honesty and fairness or the lack of these qualities with which the law and the regulations bearing on the subject have been enforced, and also upon the appropriateness of the regulations to the special conditions involved.

But it is clear that neither the adocates of civil service "reform" nor its opponents can maintain themselves permanently on a basis of sentiment Results must determine. Where re sults indicate defects in the law, the law will have to be changed. And these necessary changes cannot be stopped by the action of the professional high priests of the examination ferich meeting together in convention and fulsomely proclaiming like the Pharisees of old that they are not as other men are. Up to this time we have had altogether too much mummery, hocus pocus, fuss, fustian and make-believe, and altogether too little horse sense in the consideration of this subject. A ray of the latter is wel-

There are newspapers friendsly to the president which imagine they can do him a favor by representing that he is unconcerned over the attitude of congress on questions of public pol icy, particularly the civil service. We believe that they labor under a hallucination. The executive who underestimates congress lays foundations of his own downfall, and we see no reason to suspect that Mr. McKinley has News of the Day harbored any such intentions.

Foreign Ministers and Their Pay. The question of providing suitable again been presented to congress with a strong affirmative indorsement from the department of state. The highest salary paid by this government in its foreign service is that paid to ambassaders, \$17,500 a year. Out of this sum the ambassador has to pay rent for an appropriate embassy and meet all the osts of the generous entertaining required of him in the course of his offic ial duties. Rent alone in most Eurobean capitals exhausts the American minister's salary, requiring him to draw upon private funds to uphoid socially the prestige of his position. The esult is that none but a rich man can afford to accept an appointment as ambassador or minister to a leading court. instance after instance could be named f men of the first rank mentally, sotally and politically who have been ompelled to decline proffered appointments of this kind, or having accepted, have afterward been driven to resign them, because of their inability from private resources to cover the excess of unavoidable expense over salary re-

Mr. Bayard has recently informed he public of his embarrassments in this direction, and it is no secret that the same considerations forced the resignation by Charles Emory Smith of the Russian mission under President Harrison, thereby taking from the government's employ perhaps the best qualified man for such service in the country today. When Whitelaw Reid was minister to France he paid more than his salary for rent alone and is credited by rumor with having drawn apon his personal estate at the rate of \$75,000 a year additional rather than permit the representative of his government to be eclipsed in any way, Luckily for him and for his countrymen, Mr. Reid had a private fortune to draw upon, but it is evidently mischievous to permit a condition to continue in this branch of the public gervice which by the imperious law of necessity erects a class of rich officeholders and draws a dead line in front of honorable poverty. Such a condition is unAmerican and therefore in-

It is not necessary to make comparisons between our own ambassadorial pay rolls and the pay rolls of other countries, yet the circumstance is interesting that the foreign representatives of Great Britain, Germany, France and Russia receive from two to five times the allowances given to the foreign representatives of the United States. We pay our ambassador to England \$17,500 and make him find his own food and shelter. England pays her ambassador to the United States \$30,000 a year, gives him rent free the use of a fine embassy in the heart of the aristocratic residence portion of Washington and adds a special allowance of \$10,000 per annum to enable him to meet the social demands of his office. This comparison is not extreme, it is fairly typical. Nothing therefore can be more natural than that British ambassadors and ministers, with their minds relieved of the problem of makbe able in most instances to gain the steamer."

ascendancy over their less fortunate American colleagues.

Previous discussions of this subject Maving generally ended in an argument pro and con as to whether the present diplomatic machinery, with its large amount of formality and red tape, is in keeping with the busy spirit of the age and whether it might not be well to do away with the control of the same and th well to do away with it altogether; therefore to meet a probable recurrence of this kind of talk it may be timely to say that so long as ambassadorial functions are recognized and sustained by international usage, the government of the United States would simply injure its own interests if it were to quibble and haggle over the cost necessary to uphoid its end. There will probably never come a time in the history of the world when sharpened wits competing through diplomacy for the honor and prestige and commercial advantage of their respective countries will become obsolete in statecraft; hence it is simply a question with the congress of the United States whether it desires to have the representatives of America entered in this inevitable competition on equal terms or entered with a handicap.

As a general proposition, Represenlabor of higher public servants. It will tative Johnson is not far affeld when he says that until the president is made ineligible to an immediate reelection this country will never have the best government possible. Expediency often unconsciously makes cowards of us all.

> General Gomez says that to hasten matters and prevent further bloodshed, the insurgents will give Spain \$250,000,ontessed to everything. Now I suppose the Northern papers'll blame the South \$250,000,000 above the limits of justice.

Honesty of purpose and excellence in character are proved by the experience of William M. Singerly to be valuable assets in a time of misfortune.

In the case of Anthony Comstock the jury which gave him 6 cents damages for slander probably decided that virtue ought to be its own reward.

TOLD BY THE STARS.

Daily Horoscope Drawn by Ajacchus, The Tribune Astrologer. Astrolabe Cast: 2.34 a. m., for Saturday. January 8, 1898.

A child born on this day will notice that the fellow in politics and matrimony who lets his relatives do the courting gen-erally has to be content with anything

but the first prize.

Marriage is not a failure. It is the atempt at realization of anticipation that often proves fruitless. The disappearance of freckles on your best girl's nose is one of the unfailing symptoms of love.

There is no question that Mr. Finn's fins are on straight. He's in the swim. Some persons will never make any one on this earth, save perhaps the un-

Ajacchus' Advice.

"He who laughs last laughs best," but it is better to smile in the first stage of

Put Into Dialogue

For The Tribune, by H. McAlpine,

A Name Unknown to Diplomacy. British Admiral: "I have instruction apply to you for a pretext for seizing

Resident British Consul: "I got orders two weeks ago to have one ready for you, but it's no go; the Orientals are ento us. Last week the Russian consul spit tobacco juice all over the throne and the king went into ecstacies and begged to be taught so be could do it himself. The French consul got a lot of marines drunk and sent them through the city mashing shops and natives, in hope that hey would be mobbed and all he got om the Grand Vizier was an apology ocause the gentle sailors had to take so much trouble in order to get a little amusement out of his dull country and an offer to send some of his people on hoard the ships where they could be licked more easily. Yesterday McRannon Jones, our advisor to the throne, kicked the prime minister, a high noble of the Foo Choo blood, down three flights of the palace stairs and he only picked up his turban and asked if the gracious representative of Her Illustrious Majesty wished to kick him down the remainog flight

Admiral: "Have we no missionaries ack in the country where the natives are more easily excited?"

Consul: "Yes, there's an old gentleman back in the hills where the people are wild enough to burn him if they could be got on a little rampage. I sent him a letter explaining the gravity of the situation and asking him to cut off a few calves' talls or something like that.

to make them think he was working a spell against 'em, so they'd burn the mission buildings and he sent me back a long letter with a lot of stuff I didn't understand about working 'em in vine-yards and getting 'em into folds and wound up by stating that the government's instructions didn't cut any figure and that a missionary could obey only the commands of Christ. Who is He? I've worked for the foreign office in this part of the world all my life and don't remember ever seeing the name of Christ before. Sounds like Russian, doesn't it? I've been in a blue sweat for fear they've bribed the old man to play into the Czar's hands."

Autonomy in Cuba.

Captain General: "Have the commis-sioners sent to offer autonomy to the insurgents returned? Aide: "No. Your Excellency. It is said that they have been hanged." Captain General: "We will work that for all it's worth to show to the world what barbarians these rebels are. Un-doubtedly it will have a good effect; we must send some more officers to them."

Aide: "There is a sudden epidemic of sickness among our officers. I doubt if ne can be found able to report for active

Captain General: "Most unfortunate. this general unhealthiness, just when there is a chance to make them useful; we must keep it from increasing. Issue an order requiring a surgeon's certificate from every one on the sick list." In a cafe one week later.—First sur-geon: "Here's to the success of autonomy! Good thing all around and especial-ly so for surgeons."
. Second surgeon: "Right you are! If

the demand for certificates continues another week I shall be able to retire from the service and buy an estate."
Third surgeon: "It's very well for you to rejoice, but I, myself, am a ruined man. Since the horses are all killed and eaten, they have sent to me a young fool veterinary as my assistant, and yes-terday, while I was absent, he issued to Colonel Ronquindo a certificate for a ring boned spavin. If it reaches the Cap-tain General my fate —— Shades of per-dition! It's done it's devil's work! Here

comes the detail to arrest me Another Spanish Loss. Spanish Don: "The wealthy American business man who came to make a personal investigation of the condition of

Captain General: "When did he at Spanish Don: "He landed day before sterday. He's been here nearly forty-

THE SCRANTON TRIBUNE.

eight hours. heard how fast the insurgents run whenever they see our troops. He mas seen
that all our officers smile contemptuously
when they speak of the enemy and has
made a note of it for the enlightenment
of his countrymen. He has learned that
the concentrados were rescued from dire
evils that threatened them in the country
and are perishing on our streets simply
because they are too lazy to adapt themselves to the conditions of city life. With
his own eyes he has seen some Cubans in
the criminal iails and realizes that they
are degraded creatures, incapable of seif newspapers misinform them." Captain General, "If more of his kind would come to investigate instead

these pests of reporters, puelle opinion in the United States could soon be changed. Make it pleasant for him tonight

ing to make such a fuss about—

Spanish Don: "——, But they have captured and carried away the Americano usiness man who was to sail on this morning's steamer."

Down South.

Excited Citizen: "Hold on there, hold on! Great Scott, Colonel, you've lynched the wrong nigger!" Alabama Colonel: "The wrong nigger?

How's that? I didn't jab the pitchfork into him more'n a dozen times before he quit insistin' he was the wrong man and sionaries down here and teach these here triffin' niggers to stick to the truth?"

The Oriental Situation.

Ho Wang: "You lookee plitty blue. Been takee too much pillee?" Ll Ping: "Plenty leason be blue. Better killee self new; by-un-by no have any country send ashes to. Eulyplean govle-ment takee lil slice; by-un-by takee whole pie. Break China up, allee-same dyna-mite stick bust Hop Ling las' week."

Ho Wang: "Eulyplean govlement no findee black bird this pie; velly 'nother kind. Makee velly bad pie some time, no

keepee good. Foreign devil got a big snap now. Run railroad through ances-tral graveyard: China velly sick, no can helpee. Allee right! You go soakee head clear and we start a firm putee ashes in cold storage lil while till Eulyplean boss give Chinaman plenty big boost, allee samee upee date, so Chinaman give boss plenty big bounce, allee samee Melicar ook bounce Sam Lee las' week."

PRE-DETERMINATION OF SEX.

From the New York Journal,

The alleged discovery of Dr. Schenk, o The alleged discovery of Dr. Schenk, of Vienna, that the sex of children can be controlled by varying the food of the mother before their birth, is of more importance, if genuine, than the complications in Asia, the partition of Africa, or any other of the spectacular performances of statesmen. And there is no reason why it should not be true. It is only the latest of a number of seemingly mirthelatest of a number of seemingly mirthe latest of a number of seemingly mir-aculous achievements by which man has penetrated further into the secrets of nature within the past few years than in all the centuries before. It is less in-credible than that we should be able to see our own skeletons, or that a human being should be made to live without a

That this discovery, if verified, must have tremendous social consequences is obvious, but their nature is not so clear. The fear has been expressed that it would lead to the speedy depopulation choice girls would cease to be born. But that opinion does not seem to be well founded. Among some uncivilized and semi-civilized races daughters have been so unwelcome as to run the risk of prompt extinction at birth. Among other peoples in similar stages of advancement girls have been welcomed as sources of wealth, being ultimately disposed of at high figures either for wives, as in South Africa, or for slaves, as in Georgia and Circassia. But parents in enlightened nations have no extreme perference for one sex over the other. As a rule, they may wish the eldest child to be a son, but after that, as a rule, they do not desire to have all sons and no daughters. They look to the harmonious completeness of the family life, which cannot be attained without a fair representation of each sex.

A slight artificial increase in the proportion of male births might be used to correct the present natural inequalities. In most old countries, including the older states of our Union, there is a marked excess of females over males. Nature tries to correct this discrepancy by producing more boys than girls, but she does not go far enough. Although in England there are 1,037 male to 1,000 female births. there are 1.064 living females to 1.066 males. The boys get killed off by dang-erous occupations, or kill themselves off by irregular habits. If nature were helped a little further, the lonely army of surplus English women would disap-pear. Some such result is a much more likely consequence of Dr. Schenk's dis-covery than the depopulation of the

HIGHLY COMPLIMENTARY.

From the Pittston Gazette.

The appointment of Major Penman to this responsible and lucrative post is not only a decided victory for Congressman Connell, who pressed Major Peuman's can-didacy, but it is also highly complimentary to the appointee, in view of the fact that he has held the office before. Major Penman made an excellent record as internal sevenue collector under the Har rison administration, and this doubtless had no little influence in securing his appointment by President McKinley, Under his charge, we are assured an honest and business-like conduct of the af fairs of the office during the next foci



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

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Specially low prices on California Eider - Down Blankets during this week.

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