

The Scranton Tribune

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REPUBLICAN CITY TICKET.

- For School Director. Three Years—PETER NEULS, Eleventh ward. Three Years—D. I. PHILLIPS, Fifth ward. Two Years—E. D. FELLOWS, Fourth ward. Two Years—P. S. GODFREY, Eighth ward. One Year—F. S. BARKER, Seventeenth ward. One Year—ELIAS EVANS, Fifteenth ward. Election Day, February 15.

If after yesterday's developments at Washington, Spain doesn't evince gratitude to the government of the United States, then is Spain lost to every sentiment of decency.

A Desperate Hazard.

It is possible that if Cuba and all the remainder of the world were at peace the Fifty-sixth congress, which will be elected next November, would be Democratic. The congress following a change in the national administration usually is not in unison with the new administration. Patronage quarrels, popular reaction and the disillusionment incident to impossible expectations and that natural disposition among disoriented Americans to make the party in power the scapegoat of their own shortcomings—all these things explain why it is difficult under the best of circumstances for a national administration to hold its own in the even-numbered congresses.

But it is seldom that an administration deliberately invites defeat, and inasmuch as the McKinley administration has heretofore given convincing evidence of being in the complete and well-balanced possession of all its faculties, we must assume that the frightful political hazard which it is taking in its utterly unpopular treatment of the Cuban issue is based upon information of the first importance which the public generally does not know. Unless the sequel shall justify its now inscrutable caution, it will require no gift of prophecy to foresee that the Republican membership in the next congress will hardly be large enough to cast a respectable shadow.

Governor Bushnell, of Ohio, asserts that the week before the balloting at Columbus he positively declined to be a candidate for senator in opposition to Mark Hanna. The governor has been a long time in making this fact public.

The Modern Church.

Every little while some incident arises in connection with the religious activities of the time which starts up a chorus of protest at the asserted decadence of spirituality in the modern church. The tenor of this protest is that modern Christianity is losing its essence in a fondness for forms and ceremonies, that most people nowadays go to church less in the love and fear of God and for their souls' benefit and more because it is a conventional and highly respectable thing to do than used to be true in the past, ere material progress had resulted in the accumulation of great wealth, with its higher standards of personal luxury and its dulling of the moral perceptions. The inference is that the men and women of this generation are, in the main, a pack of hypocrites and that virtue in a vital sense must be regarded as a thing necessitating for the greater part the employment of the past tense.

We are in the midst of such a protest at this time. So slight a thing as the resignation of Rev. John Hall from the pastorate of the Fifth avenue Presbyterian church in New York city, brought about, it is said, by the disclosure of a feeling in that congregation of restlessness because the venerable minister in his style and subject-matter clung to the ways of twenty or thirty years ago instead of bringing both "up to date," has sufficed to cause a ripple of discussion which bids fair, before it is stilled, to traverse the entire surface of the religious and secular press, calling out once more the familiar accusations, which if not soon refuted may eventually gain credence through sheer pertinacity of repetition.

It is natural to exalt the past at the expense of the present. The habit obtains in many directions. We see it exemplified in politics, in the prevalence of the claim, unwarranted by evidence, that the quality of our statesmanship is deteriorating. We see it in literary and dramatic judgments; according to which the present is invariably the famine time, while just back a little way was the period of plenty.

To encounter the same rate of criticism in affairs of religion is not, therefore, surprising; but we commend to all who may be inclined to accord this depreciation of the present that they make careful study of the past from the evidence which was contemporary; to note how the religious teachers of old called their hearers a "generation of vipers," and scourged and flayed them for the scantiness of their faith; and to observe finally how at any anterior time the same habit of rosy retrospect, of surrounding the past with a halo, is indicated in the literature of that time.

Philosophy teaches that the conditions of a people must be estimated in accordance with the standards of that people prevailing at the time of review. It is unsafe to apply the standards of a generation ago to the different conditions of today. Let it be conceded that church worship upon the whole is more elegant at this period than in the cruder eras of foundation-building; has there been a day since the establishment of the Christian religion when there was wider and deeper and fuller recognition of human brotherhood as evidenced in far-reaching ministrations of practical charity and benevolence than there is today? We must remember that the churches have not gained faster in the style and comfort of their material equipment and appointments than have the people who worship in them. The poorest man in Scranton probably fares better every day in the year than did

Alexander of Macedon after he had conquered the world; that is to say, he has at his service greater and better conveniences. The modern church is undergoing an evolution, undoubtedly. Religion is becoming less dogmatic and more humane. The barriers of creed are disintegrating. There is a finer atmosphere of fellowship and unity in essentials than ever before. But all this points not to deterioration but to progress.

As an individual Republican Hon. John P. Eikin has a perfect right to hope for the nomination of Colonel Stone for governor if such be his preference and desire; but as state chairman of the Republican organization we should think he would be eager to deny the numerous assertions by seemingly reputable witnesses that he is using his official prestige and opportunities to further the interests of the All-gentry candidate five months in the absence of the nominating convention.

Where Reform Must Begin.

Approves of the agitation for the popular election of United States senators the Philadelphia Record makes the suggestion that the constitution be so amended as to give to each state the right to choose its senators in its own way. This, if we mistake not, is a new idea and it would have the advantage of leaving a door open to escape in case the radical plan of a popular election amendment should in operation result unsatisfactorily.

The trouble with the sentiment for direct election is that it lacks discrimination. It perceives that there are gross scandals attending the present method of choosing senators but it fails to see that direct election would in all probability leave those scandals or similar ones unscathed. So long as the party primaries are run by professionals or so befogged by hocus-pocus that the honest voter is frightened out of his rights, it will matter little whether senators are elected by boodie legislatures or put in the way of election by purchased nominations at state conventions.

The moral difference between the two systems is not more than the difference between tweedle dum and tweedle dee. In other words, so long as the good citizen shrinks or neglects his civic duty the results in our politics will be unsatisfactory, whether this "system" or that "system," this "reform" or that "reform," be nominally entered upon the statute books. The only argument in favor of popular election, which impresses us as valid is that it would take out of our state legislatures a disturbing factor. Men chosen to make the laws of the state ought not to be asked to wallow through the distractions of a heated senatorial campaign, which usually leaves them with their usefulness to the people shriveled up. On the other hand, if fit men were chosen as state legislators, this would not need to be. So the argument is as broad as it is long; and no matter which side we take, we are brought face to face with the foundation fact that it is not so much the method as it is the man that needs reformation. You can change the direction of the outflow, but you cannot make the political fountain rise higher than its source.

As an exhibition of party discipline the majority's repeated refusal to be stamped into a recognition of Cuban belligerence was as fine a sight as the house of representatives has seen in many a day, or as it is likely, perhaps, ever to see again. It is a kind of discipline, however, which may cost heavily in votes next November.

History Repeating Itself.

Reports from different sections of the state continue to indicate that the tactics by which the nomination of George Wallace Delamater was forced upon the Republicans of Pennsylvania eight years ago, chiefly through the work and counsel of William H. Andrews, are being repeated with little difference or variation, by the same agent or agencies, and we have no doubt for a similar purpose.

At the time of the memorable state convention of 1890, there was among the Republican masses no particular repugnance to Mr. Delamater personally. Subsequent revelations as to his weak character in business dealings were then known only to a few. The opposition to him arose solely out of disreputable methods and influences surrounding his candidacy, and so far as it was personal at all, was personal rather against Delamater's manager than against Delamater himself.

In this, as in other respects, history is repeating itself with notable accuracy. The man whom Senator Andrews has picked out as his victim this time is a much stronger man than ever George Wallace Delamater was. He is a man who, on his own footing and in a contest devoid of unfair features, would be likely to win a fair measure of popular sympathy and respect. He has had much larger experience in public affairs than Delamater had. He has performed services for his country on battle fields and in congress which entitle him to the personal good will of his fellow citizens generally, without regard to party. Under better auspices he might be welcomed as a gubernatorial candidate with something of deference if not with enthusiasm.

But in politics a man must be judged by the company he keeps and by the practices which he knowingly sanctions. Colonel William A. Stone must have knowledge of the methods which are making his candidacy under the management of William H. Andrews increasingly odious to a growing number of Republican voters in every part of the commonwealth; and it is to be inferred from his silence that knowingly he sanctions them. Those methods to encounter defeat at the polls. Let us hope for the sake of the party that this year Andrews will meet his inevitable reverse in time to save Pennsylvania Republicanism from a four-years' term of banishment.

The Philadelphia Record's almanac for 1898 is one of the neatest and most complete of the current year books. In addition to the usual fund of general information the Record almanac contains the schedule rates of the new Dingley tariff bill with rates of the Wilson and McKinley bills added for

comparison. Upon the whole it is a credit to the Record establishment.

The slot machines have been driven from Wilkes-Barre and are, it is said, to be driven from Scranton, by the police. The slot machine is one of the most fascinating of the cheap gambling games of the present age, and therefore one of the most vicious. It certainly should go.

Up to date over 300,000 persons have been examined by the civil service commission, of whom less than one-sixth have got offices. Each examination costs the government \$2.74. An entrance fee of \$5 would have a wholesome deterrent as well as economic effect.

Many exchanges exhibit surprise that Joaquin Miller should have been frost-bitten in the Klondike region. They think that the poet's florid songs should have kept him warm even in a temperature of 60 degrees below zero; but maybe he forgot to take his poetry with him.

The new governor of Iowa, Leslie M. Shaw, devoted his inaugural address to an elaborate defense of the gold standard. His argument is brilliant and profound, but it does not wholly allay the wonder as to what the governor of Iowa has to do with national issues.

The proprietor of the Police Gazette has again been arrested for circulating indecent "literature." His excuse is that the "literature" complained of consisted of flash-light snapshots of unscrupulous stage scenes. That ought to double his sentence.

In contemplating the illustrated press of today, President Dole, of Hawaii, is unable to decide whether he is himself or General Booth, of Salvation Army fame.

Senator Wolcott is not happy in his criticisms of Secretary Dage. Secretary Gage, like Senator Wolcott, has simply the courage of his convictions.

Kentucky papers deny that sunshine can be bottled. The nearest thing to bottled sunshine down there comes in liquid form.

TOLD BY THE STARS.

Daily Horoscope Drawn by Ajacchus, The Tribune Astrologer. Astrological Cast: 2:30 a. m. for Thursday, January 20, 1898.

A child born on this day will observe that purely theoretical arguments are usually the most eloquent.

There are 10,000,000 nerve fibers in the human body, and in some instances they seem to be concentrated in the cheek of the subject.

The man at the liquid refreshment counter is about the only citizen who really enjoys "getting it in the neck."

After all the counterfeit nickle is more dangerous to the community at large than bogus one hundred dollar bills.

Even the "tatty" that is received with a grain of suspicion, is always pleasant.

Ajacchus' Advice. The early bird catches the worm. If you are in the rear, keep in the background as long as possible.

Railway Building And Prosperity

From the Philadelphia Press.

THE United States last year built only 184 miles of railroad in three years past only 5,342 miles have been built, or 1,835 miles a year. In the last five years only 10,129 miles were built, or 2,025 miles a year. This is the lowest average in fifty years. Since 1847 the country for half a century has averaged 3,577 miles a year, one-third more than in the last five years. In the last twenty years, since 1877, it has averaged 5,275 miles a year. The amount of railroad built in the last ten years, only 35,257 miles, is the least in any decade for forty years, and of the rails laid in the past ten years two-thirds were laid in the first five years of the decade, 1887 to 1892.

Nothing like this pause in our railroad construction has been seen in our railroad history. In the last five years the population of the country has grown some 5,200,000. The wealth of the country has grown in the same period at least \$100,000,000. The real valuation of 105 of the leading cities has grown \$1,500,000,000 from 1890 to 1897, and if the entire wealth of the country has grown in the same proportion, the aggregate has advanced a round \$10,000,000,000. Of both wealth and population there has been a great increase, on railroads the same history for a generation. In 1857 this country built 12,983 miles of railroad. From that time the annual mileage built decreased year by year in its previous period of like decrease, after five to seven years of decrease, the track built began to grow again and increase. This time it has not.

For three years the life of the building has hung at the ebb. It shows no sign of rising. The plans for the coming year are no more extensive than those in existence a year ago.

Population grows. Wealth increases. The demand for new railroads exists. None are built. Why? The reason is simple. Men doubt the currency. Down to 1885 investors believed our standard of value was secure. That year showed that the nation's aggregate value might be dependent on a single presidential election. Under existing laws, with our currency depending on the government revenue and the cash balance in the treasury, any president can at any time carry the country to a silver standard. A single presidential election might, by doing this, reduce one-half the value of every railroad investment. In the face of this no one invests. Instead of building 6,000 to 8,000 miles of railroad, only 1,800 are built each year. At \$20,000 a mile, 1,800 cost \$36,000,000. If the normal usual average of 6,000 were building this \$120,000,000 would be spent. If 8,000 were building, an is natural in a year of prosperity, the expenditure would be \$160,000,000.

This vast sum should be making business good, putting labor in demand and creating a market for iron, steel and all manner of railway supplies. In our last period of railroad expansion Edward Atkinson showed that 1,000,000 men were employed on new railroad construction, directly and indirectly. Such a demand for labor raises wages all over the land. Doubt as to the currency blocks all this. Put the currency on a sound basis and investments will begin again and railroad construction will be resumed. As long as the currency is left dependent on the rise and fall of the treasury cash balance and the condition of government revenue no full return of prosperity is possible.

ONE MORAL STANDARD.

Rochester Democrat and Chronicle. It is entirely, absolutely true, whatever apologists for man's weakness and passion say to the contrary, that a young man should bring to the marriage altar the same degree of respectability he demands of his bride." This, in the

estimation of some, but not of all men, is not only a high, but an impracticable ideal. Tolpelt is demanded of one sex which is not extended to the other. But what is said of the young man, upon the eve of marriage, may with equal truth and force be said of all men, married or single, throughout their lives. Our laws are founded upon the presumption of chastity among men as well as women. They are a penalty to the violation of it. They institute no discrimination between the sexes, but in effect declare that it is as vicious and disgraceful for men as for women to be false to the great underlying law of social purity. In this matter as in other ethical considerations the standard cannot be placed too high or be too clearly or positively defined. For all who are guilty of a violation of it, but not for one more than for the other, the charity which "suffereth long and is kind" may be exercised when the conditions and circumstances call for it, but it is cowardly and mean as well as unjust to permit it to cover a multitude of sins in one case and leave the culprit in another exposed to scorn, shame and legal penalty.

THE SALVATION BOOTHS.

From the New York Tribune.

Now that William Booth and his son, Ballington, after protracted negotiations conducted through their plenipotentiaries, have had an interview and separated without either breaking the peace or picking the break, we hope that they will for a time efface themselves as far as possible. The witnesses in whose presence the talks were held, therefore, appear why the principals should not give their entire time to the task of saving souls, each according to his own ideas of the methods and discipline best adapted to that supreme end. It must be admitted that such a course of conduct would subject them to a severe strain; but they should suppose the whole country to be waiting in breathless suspense for the result of the elder Booth's visit, if, as seems to be the fact, each honestly seems himself for the most important individual now living in the world. But in the interest of truth and religion we must assure them that such supremacy really belongs to neither.

How much good the Salvation Army was doing before the Booths began their open quarrel there is no means of calculating. Our strong impression has been that the total was large. But it is impossible to suppose that the exhibition of evil passions and colossal vanity which has been going on during the last two years has not done an immense amount of harm. It has been a constant betrayal, under the eyes of those most likely to be unfortunately influenced thereby, of the cause which the spectacular professors of the Gospel of Christ are ostensibly devoted. A long period of pure and peaceful effort to raise the fallen condition of the people who are afflicted and evangelized the world will not more than repair that injury. An absurd amount of publicity has been bestowed upon the Booths at their solicitation by the newspapers. The best return that they can now make is to take themselves personally out of observation, concentrating upon a disinterested employment of the forces under their commands the energy which they have been dissipating in public clamor against one another.

It is proper to say before taking leave of this unpleasant subject that from the moment of their separation the father has appeared to the people of this country a considerably more objectionable person than the son. The original feeling was that the latter had good reason for disesteeming a leadership which appeared to hold American ways, proclivities and institutions in contempt, and if he had been content with justifying his action to the American people by a simple record of good works instead of trying to make them a party to the quarrel he might have had their undivided sympathy. As it is, the strongest desire of all sensible persons with reference to the whole Booth family is that its bickering, or, at least, the noise thereof, should cease. The Irish judge delivered a valuable sentence in sufficiently lucid terms: "I want nothing from you but silence, and mighty of that."

THE GOSPEL OF COMMON SENSE

From a Letter by James Russell Lowell. The longer I live the more am I convinced that the world must be healed by degrees. I see why Jesus came eating meat and drinking wine and keeping company with publicans and sinners. He preached the highest doctrine, but He lived the life of men. And was it not in order that His personality might be a bridge between their lower natures and His higher ideas? Let us sow the best seed we have, and convert other men by our deeds, not by drubbing them with our hoos, or putting them under our harrows. Above all, let us not preach about the bright side of human nature and look always at the dark. Heaven help us! We all revolve around God with larger or smaller degrees, but all likewise turn upon our own axes, and sometimes one-half of us is in the light, sometimes the other. I have felt as if I were all bricks sometimes, but it was only because my diseased consciousness had absconded into my aesthetic hemisphere.

HAD BETTER GO HOME.

From the New York Sun. We do not want any English general for any American army, be it military or spiritual. We can manage our own religious enterprises without dictation from London. "General" Booth, therefore, has mistaken his proper field for usefulness in coming to America. The best thing for him to do is to take the first ship home again. He will waste his efforts to rebuild here his system of spiritual and financial tyranny.

A JOB IN PRINTING.

May I print a kiss on your cheek? I asked. She nodded her sweet permission. So we went to press, and I rather guess we printed a large edition. —Inland Printer.

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