

The Scranton Tribune

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TEN PAGES.

SCRANTON, FEBRUARY 23, 1898.

The abiding wonder of the time is that the modest New York Journal doesn't claim the credit of blowing up the Maine.

Willing to Be Renominated.

The authorized announcement by Congressman Morgan B. Williams, of the Twelfth Pennsylvania district, of his willingness to accept a re-nomination if in the judgment of the Luzerne county Republican leaders that would make for party success will be gratifying news to thousands of friends outside his district as well as to the great mass of his constituents.

But influential men in the party at Washington as well as prominent Republicans at home insisted that it was his duty to run again so that there would be little possibility of the district being represented in the next congress by a free silver Democrat.

It is to be hoped that the Republicans of the mother county will meet this announcement in the cordial spirit in which it is given and go to work with a will for Mr. Williams' re-nomination and re-election.

Jaucned Journalism and Its Cure.

Amusement is made that the Ellsworth bill which sought to make it possible for the publishers of corrupt newspapers to be punished on general principles has been abandoned by the New York legislature.

Another instance bringing out even more clearly the need of uniformity in this reported in the New York Sun: "In giving Mark K. Hamilton a decree of absolute divorce against Hattie Maud Hamilton Justice Pryor of the Supreme court desecrated yesterday on the conflict of the divorce laws. Mrs. Hamilton had obtained in Connecticut a divorce on the ground of cruelty and desertion. She then married William A. Fitzsimmons, with whom, the judge says, she is living in this city, 'decorously, in the relation of husband and wife.' This conduct is charged in the present case as 'adulterous intercourse.' The judge says: 'I direct a judgment for divorce against the defendant with unaffected reluctance, and only upon compulsion of an imperative principle in the jurisprudence of this state.'"

It seems to us that this second example of the unfairness arising from differing laws in different states requires very little comment. The injustice of it is monstrous. It should be sufficient to incite redoubled energy properly and uniformly safeguarded in every state and territory in the Union.

really believe it was due to simple accident. I admire the resignation of the United States, but with more energy the Cuban question would have been settled long ago."

Money for Naval Enlargement.

The patriotic suggestion is made in the Sun by two veterans of the civil war that those of their fellow veterans throughout the country who are pensioners voluntarily donate to the government their claims for one year, upon condition that the government take this money and purchase an adequate navy. If the suggestion were carried out it would give us about 30 additional war ships, fully equipped, and each equal to the Maine. That would be too many.

A much better plan would be to leave undisturbed the pensions of all pensioners who deserve pensions and secure the money needed for increased naval equipment by the temporary increase of internal taxation. A cent extra on each gallon of distilled spirits, wine, beer and ale would do the business and not a mother's son in all the land would have the hardhood to object.

Robert Todd Lincoln, former secretary of war, has advanced the opinion that Spain will in no way be responsible for the loss of the battleship Maine. In case it is demonstrated that the ship was blown up by Spanish fanatics, unless it can be shown that the act was performed with the approval of the Spanish government, Robert Todd has evidently been talking to the reporter who interviewed Commander Sobral.

It is said that since John Wanamaker ceased to advertise in the Philadelphia Inquirer that journal's advertising business has more than doubled. In other words, it retains both its independence and its profits.

Touching the Fact of Responsibility

From Walter Wellman's Washington Dispatch in the Chicago Record.

THE Maine was destroyed from any other cause than accident occurring within the ship, Spain is responsible for her loss, and will be held strictly accountable to her responsibility in that case there is no question, and there will be no lack of energy and decisiveness in the demand which the United States will make upon the Madrid government. But any man who pauses for a moment to think will see that there are various degrees of responsibility resting upon Spain, according to the circumstances. It is incredible that the destruction of the Maine was ordered by Spanish authorities by official order to represent the government. But if this should turn out to be the case there could be but one punishment to fit the crime. Spain would be an outlaw among nations. The United States would no more have diplomatic intercourse with her than with a pirate. War would be instantly declared, and if the United States were mighty enough to do it—and she is—Spain would be destroyed as a nation. But this contingency is fortunately so remote, so far beyond reason and belief, that it needs no serious consideration.

Spain is still responsible if the Maine was blown up by a fanatic or by a conspiracy of criminals. Should this be demonstrated the course of the United States is clear. A demand would be made upon Spain for the punishment with death of every guilty wretch who could be caught; Spain would have to pay for the Maine at her full value; she would be required to pay punitive damages; she would have to pay indemnity to the families of the victims, and smart sums at that; and Spain would be required to apologize and disclaim. No self-respecting nation would refuse such reparation, and no one has a right to assume that Spain would refuse. If she did, war would quickly follow. Now it would be prudent for Spain to haggle or shuffle or seek to evade. Any civilized nation would make a good choice to display its character promptly, fully and satisfactorily.

Spain is responsible if it be demonstrated that the Maine was destroyed by accidental contact of a torpedo or mine planted by her in the harbor of Havana without the aid of malice or criminal intent of any sort. Her responsibility in this case would be fully as great as if the crime of one of her subjects had led to the disaster, but it is not to be so shortly dealt with. If malice wholly disappears from the cause, then the disaster becomes a most deplorable incident for which Spain is responsible in a property sense and she must make adequate reparation, not only to the government but to the families of the victims. The United States has itself recognized the responsibility for disaster caused by the negligence of its agents in a case not wholly unlike this one. Years ago one of our ships attached to the Asiatic station engaged in target practice on an uninhabited island of Japan. An unexploded shell was left on the beach, and later some Japanese fooled with the cartridge. It exploded and killed a number of men. The United States recognized responsibility for their death and indemnified the families of the victims.

The foregoing statements are personal views of officials of the administration as to the course to be pursued by the United States in the various contingencies mentioned. Whatever the verdict of the court of inquiry, no one need fear that the honor and the interests of the United States will suffer. The administration is fully alive to the requirements of the situation. It is only awaiting the finding of the court. There is nothing whatever to get excited about. There is no occasion for talking war or for trying to work the people into an unreasonable passion. The honor and dignity of the United States are not to be preserved by acting like savages, rushing into war upon a mere suspicion of foul play in the minds of a part of the people. The best and ablest men in Washington by the stand taken by the president, and they applaud the sensible, kingly patriotic press of the country which avoids sensational, cheap appeals to passion and distortion of the facts. These same men—cabinet ministers, senators and representatives of both parties—call attention

to the fact that after the Maine disaster has been satisfactorily disposed of, as it doubtless will be, the great question still remaining is the future of Cuba. That is a question of humanity, commerce and civilization worthy the best efforts of a nation for its solution, with peace if possible, with force if necessary. On that question the United States proposes to be heard.

YELLOW-KID JOURNALISM.

From the Philadelphia Times. We are just now in the midst of a harvest for yellow-kid journalism. The remorse of war with Spain has created intense interest throughout the entire country, and opened the most inviting field for the reckless journalism that is now leading cities, to flood the country with sensational falsehoods relating to the loss of the battleship Maine, and to the probabilities of war between Spain and the United States. As many as half a score editions of yellow-kid journals have been issued in each of the most important cities, correcting some falsehood in one of the former editions, and yet furnishing a liberal supply of new falsehoods invented by the editors of these journals, and to intensify the war feeling of the country and increase the sale of what are by courtesy called newspapers.

There has not been an honest statement relating to the loss of the battleship Maine and the probabilities of war with Spain published in the leading yellow-kid journals since the loss of our vessel in Cuban waters, with the single exception of the official statement given out daily by the administration, and made necessary by their false and sensational publications. The yellow-kid journals, through the state or navy departments, to give out daily an official communication, which would naturally and generally utter false rumors of war which the yellow-kid journals flaunt hourly into the faces of the people.

Fortunately yellow-kid journalism represents but a very insignificant part of the journalism of the nation. There are in all the leading cities thorough representative American journals which publish the truth for the sake of the truth, and which make character of themselves by their refusal to publish anything which appears to be properly accredited, but for the sake of the truth and to conserve the actions of the people, the country today would be in a condition little short of anarchy. Nations have been wantonly disturbed, business tranquility interrupted, and popular prejudices inspired among the people which may make it difficult for the government to perform the duty that the president in the end must perform with fidelity, in dealing in even and exact justice with Spain.

If there is cause for war, the government will not shrink from declaring it. If there is not cause for war, the government will not shrink from admitting it, regardless of the floodtide of sensational falsehoods that come from the pitiful fountain of yellow-kid journalism. The people do not want to be deceived, and if they would not be deceived about their relations with Spain they should resolutely spurn the yellow-kid journals of the country which seek success and profit by pandering to anarchy. The newspapers which present the truth for the sake of the truth are well known in every community, and they should be carefully studied by all classes and conditions as they point the way to national safety. Above all, let every decent citizen, and especially every business man, resent the yellow-kid journalism of today that seeks to inflame and disturb when all self-respecting journals and citizens should seek to tranquilize and maintain the majesty of justice.

WANAMAKER VS. QUAY.

W. E. Curtis in Chicago Record. The political storm center is in the neighborhood of the Philadelphia post-office at present, and a good deal of politicking and playing is going on there between the Quay and Wanamaker factions of the Republican party. The new postmaster is a Quay man, and the Wanamakers are giving him as much trouble as possible. A municipal election was held in Philadelphia last week, in which the Quay faction won, and thus retained control of the party organization, which is very important, as it dictates the nominations and runs the election machinery. A few days before the event the Wanamaker newspapers published a circumstantial account of an alleged case of bulldozing on the part of the postmaster. It was charged that he had called the chief subordinate in his office for a conference and delivered a lecture upon their political influence and activity, and that they were advised that the tenure of their employment depended upon their political influence and activity, and that they were advised that the tenure of their employment depended upon their political influence and activity, and that they were advised that the tenure of their employment depended upon their political influence and activity.

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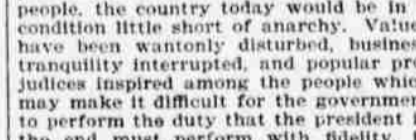
Is beginning to assume commanding proportions. Long before Spring itself thought of awakening from its slumber of many months we were in touch with every dress goods mart on both hemispheres. Many of the early novelties are here now—the styles that only a few of America's best stores will have and many that NO other store in America will show.

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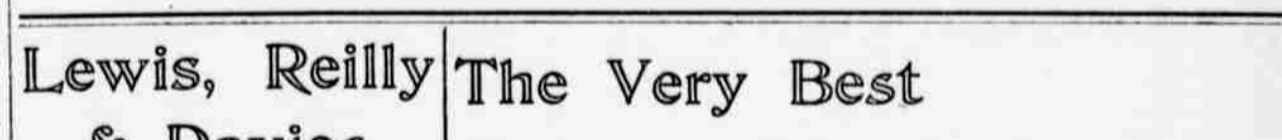
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