

The Scranton Tribune

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TEN PAGES.

SCRANTON, FEBRUARY 24, 1898.

While Brother Wanamaker is meditating it is worthy of observation that Colonel Stone is corraling the delegates. In matters of this kind it is generally understood that delegates are what count.

A Foregone Conclusion.

The conviction of Mr. Zola has been from the first a foregone conclusion. The circumstances of his trial left to the government of France practically no alternative. He had deliberately made charges against it which if proved in the eye of the court would have left it utterly discredited. It is pretty thoroughly discredited as the case stands, but it at least is not condemned by one of its own tribunals. Its condemnation is in same public opinion, chiefly outside of France. In France public opinion at the present time does not appear to be sane.

Of the ultimate effect of Zola's conviction there can be no possible doubt. The time will come when France will do him honor for his courageous assault on entrenched injustice. This time may be nearer than most persons suspect. It is inconceivable that even in France, where passion and prejudice appear to be now in the ascendant, so soon after an outrage as the condemnation of an efficient officer on alleged secret evidence the existence of which rests wholly upon official assertion without proof, can long receive popular approval. When the immediate force of the anti-semitic fury shall have spent itself; when the artificial excitement which military influences have created to cloak the rottenness of the war department shall have in some measure abated there will surely be a re-acton. This would be certain in the most phlegmatic of countries; it will be inevitable in mercurial France. In this re-acton lies France's peril. It will be strange indeed if it shall not culminate in a revolution.

As for M. Zola he will doubtless be pardoned. Zola pardoned would be Zola shorn of half his strength. Zola in prison, a new martyr to official rascality, would be the lighted fuse leading directly to the gunpowder over which the Melme cabinet is seated.

Spain will "never, no never," part with Cuba; that is to say, "well, hardly ever."

Take Your Choice.

Prone, indeed, are great men to disagree. An instance is noticed in a certain quarter with features which deserve some mention.

The Chicago Record is represented at Washington by William E. Curtis, a gentleman of large culture, wealth and experience in public affairs. Mr. Curtis was secretary of the bureau of Latin American republics when James G. Blaine was Harrison's secretary of state, and he yet commands exceptional facilities for gathering authentic information concerning administration policies. The Chicago Times-Herald is represented at the national capital by Walter Wellman, a gentleman of equal prominence among the newspaper fraternity and one whose reputation for being able to secure "inside" news is equally high. As the representative of the paper owned by one of President McKinley's closest friends, Mr. Kohl-saat, it has been believed by many that Mr. Wellman on occasions would give information.

On Tuesday morning of this week each of these excellent newspapers printed a featured special from Washington outlining the president's Cuban policy as lately ripened by significant events. The gist of the Record article was embodied in these words: "The president is fully aware of the impatience of the people in regard to the situation in Cuba and the unpopularity of his conservative policy among certain classes. He appreciates the public desire that something shall be done to stop the war and mitigate the condition of the island, but at present he does not see his way clear to do anything further than continue to tender his good offices to both sides."

The remainder of the letter is given over to a narration of the difficulties which would confront this country if it should attempt to intervene by force. "In that event," adds Mr. Curtis, "we relieve Spain from the responsibilities under which she is now staggering and take them upon ourselves, we should have to send an army to Cuba to restore order; we should have to feed the hungry and nurse the sick, preserve the peace, furnish seed and implements to the planters and prevent the guerrillas from devastating the island; and when the insurgents found that the authority had been shifted from Spain to the United States they would begin to fight us, and, in addition to them, in all probability we should have to fight the discontented Spaniards also, for they have been trying to retain the power and the plunder of the island, while the insurgents have been trying to obtain it. Neither class would be willing to let it go into the hands of a third party."

On the other hand the Times-Herald says: "President McKinley is preparing to move upon Spain. Within sixty days he will present to the Madrid government a demand that the war in Cuba be stopped. The president will point out to Spain that the situation in Cuba is intolerable to the United States; that there are no signs of a settlement by Spain alone; that as matters now look the war is likely to go on indefinitely; that this government has waited patiently for the ex-

periment of a new administration and a new policy in Cuba, but that no good appears to have come from them; that autonomy is a failure, and that neither from the civil nor military point of view has General Blanco achieved a success; that many thousands of people are starving, with no prospect of an amelioration of their condition. The president will inform Spain, in respectful but firm language, that the United States has discharged all the obligations of a neutral; that this government has exercised extraordinary patience; that we have suffered loss of commerce, of the capital of our citizens, of the peace of mind of our whole community. He will declare that our patience is exhausted, and that the time has come for a solution of the vexing problem, involving the welfare of two great nations and the very existence of a million and a half of people. The president will inform Spain that the United States is willing to assist in restoring peace to the unhappy island; that this government insists upon a settlement at once."

Evidently this is a case where one who pays his money is entitled to take his choice.

General Miles deserves great credit for having induced congress within the past eighteen months to appropriate the sum of \$2,000,000 for seacoast defenses. Some of the congressmen called him an alarmist. Today they praise his military sagacity and patriotic fidelity to duty. Washington Dispatch in the Philadelphia Times.

That is the way of the world. But it is high time the American people put men in congress who don't have to wait until taught by bitter experience that the way to keep the peace is to be ready for war.

Why That Delay?

There appears to be a determined disposition in some quarters to criticize somebody for the tardiness with which competent divers were conveyed to the scene of the Maine disaster. When we recall that the harbor at Havana has a mud bottom into which the ruined Maine is stealthily sinking the importance of obviating unnecessary delay in the work of examining the ship's submerged interior becomes manifest. This view of the matter is reflected in the Washington Post, which says:

We do not pretend to any intimate acquaintance with the regulations governing the every day routine of the navy, but we have studied history to some extent and we do not hesitate to express the opinion that the commanding officer of the squadron, Admiral Sigsbee, could have sailed for Havana Tuesday night and reached there by sunrise on Wednesday morning without violating any of the provisions of the regulations. The discretion permitted him under the circumstances. He could have taken any of the vessels in the fleet and carried with him experienced professional divers, of whom there are always a number to be found at Key West, and he could have begun at once and under the most favorable auspices the work which now, after a delay of five days, has been begun under conditions of very doubtful character.

Why did not Admiral Sigsbee sail for Havana Tuesday night and reach there by sunrise on Wednesday morning without violating any of the provisions of the regulations? The discretion permitted him under the circumstances. He could have taken any of the vessels in the fleet and carried with him experienced professional divers, of whom there are always a number to be found at Key West, and he could have begun at once and under the most favorable auspices the work which now, after a delay of five days, has been begun under conditions of very doubtful character. Why did not Admiral Sigsbee sail for Havana Tuesday night and reach there by sunrise on Wednesday morning without violating any of the provisions of the regulations? The discretion permitted him under the circumstances. He could have taken any of the vessels in the fleet and carried with him experienced professional divers, of whom there are always a number to be found at Key West, and he could have begun at once and under the most favorable auspices the work which now, after a delay of five days, has been begun under conditions of very doubtful character.

These questions may do the admiral an injustice and it is to be hoped that his reasons for his course were adequate, but it is undeniable that the Post has voiced a feeling which is largely prevalent among laymen. We have heard its questions asked repeatedly by citizens of Scranton who have discussed the different aspects of the Maine blow-up. Perhaps it is expecting too much of the government to want it to make no mistakes in an emergency of so dramatic and exciting a character; but the feeling nevertheless exists that the naval officer who shows up to the best advantage in connection with this affair is not the admiral at Key West; but rather the cool headed and energetic captain at Havana.

If promotion went by merit instead of Captain he would now be Admiral Sigsbee.

The pneumatic tube mail system is beautiful when it works. When it grinds up into pulp vast quantities of letters, many of them containing valuable references, the gray-coated, brass-buttoned, rouch-laden method, though a trifle slow, has its advantages.

A New York Example.

Governor Black of New York was nominated in 1896 as an organization candidate, having been chosen by the recognized organization leaders at the last moment in order to harmonize conflicting party factions. He was elected by a handsome majority and after election he stood by those who had stood by him. This set the Mugwumps to howling against him and for a year or so he was more or less in disgrace with them, but he held his ground. When the factional fight in New York city last fall threatened the Republican party in the Empire state with disruption and defeat, Governor Black stood by the regular party nominee until that gentleman went down at the polls, but immediately afterward he caused it to be known to the warring leaders that he proposed to bring about a restoration of harmony if possible and he told them very plainly that each side would have to get down from its high horse and make concessions. Neither group of belligerents relished this advice but inasmuch as the governor, through his influence upon Albany legislation, held the whip hand, both factions eventually yielded. An honest primary bill has been drafted at the governor's instance, has been modified until it suits the reasonable party kickers as well as the responsible organization men, and its impending enactment into law will once more put the party into trim for united battle against the common foe. This steady and sturdy work by the govern-

nor has stilled much of the former Mugwump clamor against him, and while he has not averted a hair's breadth from the line of his preconceived duty to gain popularity either among the Mugwumps or among Republican stalwarts, his clear judgment and firm common sense are compelling the respect of both.

Pennsylvania should elect next fall a governor like Governor Black.

The mantle of Madame Blavatsky, which at her death dropped upon the shoulders of W. Q. Judge, has just been transferred to the keeping of Mrs. Katharine Tingley, of New York. The transfer was made by ballot at a recent meeting of the theosophical societies of America, and Mrs. Tingley is now the supreme ecclesiastical authority of the theosophical movement in this country. Her power is unlimited and anyone who dares to question it will doubtless experience a "hot time in the old theosophical town." By the loss of power as supreme head of the followers of the occult science, Mr. Judge does not lose caste exactly, but he will not be allowed to hold any private correspondence with the unseen Mahatmas on his own account. The mediumistic postal cards will first be examined by Mrs. Tingley in future.

The recent meeting at the Philadelphia Bourse which resulted in the launching of a Wanamaker gubernatorial boom, cost \$1200, it is said, and the story goes that Thomas Dolan raised the money by private subscription among his friends in the Philadelphia gas trust. We don't see why the merchant prince shouldn't pay his own freight. He can well afford to.

Commander Eulate's announcement that he will attend no festivities during his stay in New York harbor, because of his grief regarding the Maine disaster, is somewhat in line with the case of "Buddy Baxter."

Who refused the captain before he sailed her.

There is much complaint in certain quarters because Mayor Van Wyck greeted Captain Eulate, of the Vizcaya, with coolness. Did the critics expect the mayor of New York city to fall on the neck of the Spanish commander, and sob out for sympathy in the nation's bereavement?

It must be staggering to persons who are continually looking over the records in hopes to find that they are better than some one else, to discover that the entire human family, according to best authorities, descended from Adam and Eve.

Base ball magnate Von der Ahe still languishes in prison at Pittsburg awaiting the action of friends. Von der Ahe's case furnishes a sad illustration of the folly of attempting to run the bases without a coacher.

The Wilkes-Barre News-Dealer under its new management intends to favor the creation of a new county with Hazleton as the county seat. The News-Dealer certainly has nerve.

Sobral's opinion of the American navy agrees with Weyler's but both may be taught their error ere many days.

State Treasurer Haywood's troubles are not yet over. He has bought a newspaper.

Some New Books and Magazines

THROUGHOUT H. H. Bellman from the publishers, Dodd, Mead & Co., has been received part seven of the Polychrome Bible, being the book of Judges, translated by Rev. Dr. G. F. Moore, a professor in Andover Theological seminary. Although numbered as part seven this is really the first one of the twenty parts into which it has been proposed to divide the Old Testament ready for publication. The scope and aim of the Polychrome Bible deserve a word of explanation. Perhaps we can not give this better than in the language of the publishers. In their prospectus they say:

"Long years of preparation, and collaboration upon a vast scale, have been devoted to this work, which is perhaps the greatest yet attempted in the field of Biblical scholarship. The Authorized Version of 1611 was the work of English scholars. The Revised Version was the joint production of English and American, although many of the readings and renderings preferred by the American committee were not adopted by the English revisers. The Polychrome Bible will have the unique distinction of representing the united Biblical scholarship of the civilized world. In its hand of translators we find side by side the most eminent Biblical scholars of America, such as President Harper, of Chicago; Drs. Moore, of Andover; Torrey, of Harvard; Child, of Yale; Ward, editor of the Independent; New York; Brown, of Union Theological seminary; Morris Jastrow, Jr., of Philadelphia; McCall, of Chicago; and the leading English scholars like Drs. Cheyne, Driver, George A. Smith, Byle, Martin, Knobel, Siegfried, Stoddard, Cor-nill, Kittel, Delitzsch and others, representing the best scholarship of the continent."

"The projectors of this great enterprise consider that the Revised Version was an unsatisfactory compromise, which destroyed the charm of the older translation while failing to give the reader the full results of modern research. In the present work nothing is omitted which can secure this end. The translation is based upon a thoroughly revised Hebrew text, which has been rendered into modern literary English. The text is accompanied by pictorial illustrations from Assyrian and Egyptian monuments, photographs of Biblical sites, etc., together with explanatory notes and historical and critical introductions to the several books. These comments represent the ripest fruits of research. Though based upon the combined Biblical scholarship of the world, this is not a book for scholars only, but for the people. Heretofore it has been necessary to read the Bible with the aid of commentaries. In the Polychrome Bible the Bible is translated into the language of today."

"One of the most striking features of the work is its printing. The text is printed in a visible form, the results of modern criticism as to the different sources from which some of the Old Testament books have been made up, the text is printed on variously colored backgrounds exhibiting the composite structure of the books. It thus records the present general agreement of the most competent Biblical scholars. These are all men who thoroughly believe in the inspiration of the Bible, but who feel that the time has come to make accessible to the general public the results arrived at by the most eminent specialists who have devoted their lives to these investigations. A cursory examination of the part now offered indicates at least that the Polychrome Bible will be a very interesting publication. Its mechanical get-up leaves nothing to be desired. Whether there is

that large need for its new-fangled notions in textual arrangement and in frankness of criticism which its projectors evidently fancy they perceive among the people remains to be seen. The first impression made by it is that it represents rather a fantastic fad than a coup d'etat in Biblical criticism.

The Cosmopolitan for March has several features worthy of note. In the opening article William E. Curtis presents an informing article describing government circles in China. A few pages later T. G. Crawford reviews the Dreyfus case and explains in detail why he thinks that Captain Dreyfus is innocent. Following that Richard Harding Davis contributes a powerful little story hanging on the woes and wrongs of Cuba, and at the finish Edith Walker, sighing in Alexandrian fashion for more words to conquer, declares and purpose to attempt the construction of a universal language. This, with the usual bling, makes, we should say, a generous dime's worth.

One of the First American prospectors to reach the pay dirt of the Klondike was William W. Stanley, of Berkeley, an old-time prospector who had been through the mill in California, Colorado and heaven knows where. He left Seattle March 6, 1897, and reached the Yukon in time to experience an Arctic winter, when a temperature of 79 degrees below zero was considered mild and balmy, and returned the next summer, bringing back the result of about three months' actual work at the gold fields and nuggets worth \$100,000. Mr. Stanley has written and Laird & Lee, Chicago, have published a book, called "The Story of My Search for Gold on the Yukon," which embodies his experiences in the frozen North and tells by all odds the most readable Klondike publication we have yet seen. Its pictures of mining hardships are not colored; the style is simple, the writer obviously candid and the truthfulness of his narrative evident.

"The Story of Evangelina Cisneros" told by herself with aid from her publisher, Karl Decker, and a bit of rhetorical condiment served up by the singularly versatile pen of Julian Hawthorne, comes to us in pleasing guise from the Continental Publishing Company, New York. The book, it is explained, is issued as a benefit for the fair senorita, who although in Australia, is in a land where the Spaniard is persona non grata and where a slight need for something additional, namely, cash. The subject matter of this book is contained in about equal parts of horn-blowing for the New York Journal and of the customary sympathy for Cuba; but there are portraits, illustrations and appendices narrating points in Cuba's history which give value to the volume additional to that imparted by the somewhat overworked story of Senorita Cisneros.

"The Unseen Hand," by Lawrence L. Lybrand (Chicago), "A Fair Exchange," by Tasma (New York); D. Appleton & Co.; and "The Unjust Steward" by Mrs. Oliphant (Philadelphia); J. B. Lippincott & Co. represent some of the minor fiction of the day. Of these the first is a highly melodramatic story of mystery and crime, the second a romance set in Australia in which the problem of getting rid of a disagreeable husband is worked out on lines different from the ordinary, and the third a homely tale of quiet life with a conspicuous moral to it.

THE HENDERSON BILL

From the Buffalo Express.

The Henderson bill, passed by the house of representatives, is a string of its provisions for involuntary bankruptcy as the Torrey measure, which may be said to be generally satisfactory to the business interests that have been urging legislation on this subject for so many years. The main characteristic of the Torrey bill is that it would permit involuntary proceedings not only when a debtor should commit an act essentially fraudulent, but also when he should engage in transactions due wholly to his inability to meet obligations. The Henderson bill, which passed the senate last year, provides for involuntary bankruptcy in the case of fraudulent acts. This, however, is the extent of its scope reference to involuntary proceedings. The Henderson bill may be described as a compromise between the Torrey and Nelson measures. It softens the severity of the Torrey bill by striking out, as a ground for bankruptcy, the suspension of payment of commercial paper for thirty days and in other cases of mere inability to pay by throwing on the petitioning creditors the burden of proving that the debtor is actually insolvent.

Some of the other provisions of this measure may be briefly described. It seeks to obviate the two cardinal defects of the national bankruptcy law of 1897, which led to the repeal of that law. One of these defects was the necessity of security united by one court in a number and one third in value of the creditors to have a debtor petitioned into insolvency. The Henderson bill allows three or more persons whose claims amount in the aggregate to \$500 or over, or one creditor if the number is less than twelve, to file a petition. The second defect of the old law was that it involved tedious delays and the payment of such large fees that often there was little left to satisfy the petition. The second defect of the old law was that it involved tedious delays and the payment of such large fees that often there was little left to satisfy the petition. The second defect of the old law was that it involved tedious delays and the payment of such large fees that often there was little left to satisfy the petition.

It can be said for this bill that it is in the right direction and that it may be carried through congress.

A LOVER'S COMPLAINT.

In the days of old, Lothario
Could stand outside and sing
Unto the maid he loved; but that
Has ceased to be the thing.
The swain now takes his love unto
The opera to hear
Some other do the singing, while
He chatters in her ear.
Oh, for the sweet, the good old way!
I'd very much prefer
To stand beneath her window and
Pour out my love for her—
To stand beside the castle wall
And twang my tawny lute.
Our way has no romance at all,
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