The Scranton Tribune

Published Daily, Except Sunday, by the Tribune Publishing Company, at Fifty Cents a Month.

The Tribune's telegraphic news is from three to five hours fresher than that of any Philadelphia or New York paper circulated in its field. Those papers go to press at midnight; The Tribune receives news up to 3 a. m. and sometimes later. All the news in The Tribune while it is new.

New York Office: 150 Nassau St., S. S. VREELAND, Sole Agent for Foreign Advertising.

ENTERED AT THE POSTOFFICE AT SCRANTON, PA., AS SECOND-CLASS MAIL MATTER.

SCRANTON, MAY 30, 1898.

REPUBLICAN NOMINATIONS.

Legislative.

First District—JOHN R. FARR.
Fourth District—JOHN H. REYNOLDS.

An extraordinary significance should attach to this Memorial Day. Apart from the ordinary fact that it commemorates the fallen brave, the presence of another war, waged for humanity by a re-united nation, gives to the public mind, with reinvigorated patriotism, also a fairer sense of the value of that devotion to God and country which offers life on liberty's altar, and should impart to the exercises of this day a solemnity and an earnestness not before present since the observance was instituted.

Have Patience.

In the utter absence of authentic news from Spain's mysterious squadron the public has no alternative than to await developments with what patience it may. The chances are that the navy department at Washington knows more than it cares to disclose; but even its prudential reticence cannot continue long. If Cervera isn't bottled up, he will be located soon; if he is, the reasons which require official silence on that point cannot remain operative indefinitely. In either event the public will have the good sense to appreciate that our authorities are doing their level best to hasten preparations for an aggressive campaign, and to realize that even in this age of electricity it is impossible to make an army in a day.

We sincerely trust that the Chicago Times-Herald does not voice administration thoughts when it says that "Spain may retain the Philippines by speedily suing for peace." Spain will never be able to undo what Dewey did at Manila.

The Outlook for Thursday.

Senator Quay, it is reported, realizes that the forced nomination of Colonel Stone would be a strategic mistake which might cog the party dearly, but rumor also represents him as being at this time too far committed to Stone and Stone's backers to take a new tack. In other words, if he can have his way Stone is to be nominated on Thursday, regardless of consequences, but in the hope that something may subsequently turn up to make those consequences less serious than at present appears probable.

If Stone shall be nominated those who believe in party regularity will have to make the best of it. They can console themselves with the reflection that he is personally a large-hearted, upright and able man whose public career will stand critical scrutiny. They can gain hope in the fact that such revolt as there has been among honest Republicans against the proposition involved in his nomination has rested entirely on grounds of political wisdom and expediency from the broad standpoint of the party's highest welfare and not on any ground of personal objection or private malice. In a word, they can throw the responsibility for later results upon the men who are forcing the present risks, and let it rest there.

Political discretion condemns this prospective nomination as unnecessarily hazardous, and political discretion may yet mass strength enough to avert it; but if not, there will be ample time afterward to adjust actions to circumstances and ballots to necessities.

The most effective peacemaker is the most efficient army and navy.

Centralization Indispensable.

In the course of a recent lecture on "The Organization of City Schools" Professor Nicholas Murray Butler, of Columbia university, truthfully said: "Nearly all the important educational administrative reforms in this country down to the last five years have been brought about, not by law, but by the personal influence of a strong superintendent. The school board should be small, because a small one is more efficient, less talkative, cannot cut itself up into small committees, and cannot apportion out patronage. In cities of less than 250,000 people, a school board of five is large enough, seven ought to be enough for still larger cities, and even the largest centers do not need more than from thirteen to fifteen members. The board should be selected without any reference to politics, religion, or the locality from which the members come. The functions of the board should be legislative only. They should not be executive in any sense."

The wisdom of this advice has been demonstrated repeatedly in every city in the country, and in Scranton more especially. Here we have not progressed far enough wholly to eliminate politics from the school problem, but it is to be hoped that public interest in the welfare of the schools will be sufficiently acute to keep politics out of the board meetings as much as possible in future, and also to restrain individual members from imagining that it is part of their duty to interfere continuously with the detail work of the teachers and superintendent. This is particularly to be desired during the coming year when, by reason of the pendency of legal questions vitally affecting the status of our school board, there will be afforded to wire-workers both inside and outside the board special incentive and opportunity for pernicious activity.

It is as difficult to run a school system successfully with every controller insisting upon bossing the superintendent and chief teachers as it is to fight a war by caucus and cable. Executive authority must be centralized else confusion is inevitable.

Let us hope that General Fitzhugh Lee will be able to make the eagle scream in Havana city on the fourth day of next July.

The War Revenue Bill.

The war revenue bill introduced by Mr. Dingley, chairman of the Ways and Means committee in the House of Representatives a fortnight ago, was a short, simple, practical measure which would if passed by Congress go into operation almost at once and secure to the Administration the necessary taxation of certain luxuries, such as tobacco and tobacco licenses, mineral and aerated waters, patent medicines, stamp duties and a few other sources of taxation which are in all national exigencies a certain and unobjectionable source of revenue. In principle and practice the direct taxation clauses in the Dingley bill were approximately as little burdensome as it was possible to make them. With a few admendments they were practically accepted by the house.

The controversial part of the Dingley bill was not the direct taxation provisions, however, but the issue of a new loan. It was contended by the Populists that the issue of interest bearing bonds was unnecessary, inexpedient, and of course in direct conflict with their principles. Mr. Dingley explained that these bonds would be issued in blocks of small denomination, every opportunity and inducement being offered people of moderate means to take them up. Mr. Bailey, of Texas, the so-called leader of the Democratic party in the House, in his most vacuous and irrational style, proposed the coinage of the silver seigniorage and the issue of $150,000,000 in greenbacks. The coinage of silver seigniorage signifies the profit on the silver dollars that would accrue to the treasury after it had coined into money all the silver bars in its possession or any part of them. The market value of the silver in a dollar is about forty-three cents. It is assumed by the Populists that all the silver in the treasury was purchased at the current rates, and that the Administration would profit by the difference between the dollar which it sells to the public for a hundred cents coined and the constituent metal which it purchased at forty-three cents. As a matter of fact, the greater part of the silver in the treasury was purchased at a time when the silver in the silver dollar was at a parity with gold. It would take, at lowest calculation, two years to coin all the silver held in the treasury, and not till then would the profit anticipated on the coinage of the seigniorage be made available. Just think of this proposal in face of a foreign war. The treasury would again be obliged, if this practical though partial opening of the mints to the free coinage of silver were adopted, to issue bonds to borrow gold to keep these seigniorage dollars at par, or we would once again be forced on a debased currency basis, with all that that entails.

The proposal to issue $150,000,000 in greenbacks instead of bonds is one of the favorite panaceas of our congressional financiers. The fatuous belief that government stamp creates money is one of these incurable infirmities of the human mind which it seems almost impossible to alleviate. Only the homoeopathic dose of a disorganized or depreciated, or an irredeemable currency seems to have any effect, and then only until the advent of another empiric into the field of finance. That the government is good for a hundred or a ten hundred million dollar issue of greenbacks no one doubts. The credit of the government is, however, the credit of the people, and it is not always advisable to use it beyond reasonable limits even in war time. The Administration stands pledged that it will issue bonds only as the expenses of the war demand them. These expenses are mounting up at the rate of one millions dollars a day, and must be met sooner or later, yet the spectacle is presented of the richest nation on the earth haggling over a revenue bill for the purpose of carrying on a war into which these very politicians who are frustrating the government's plans of raising money forced it. It would almost appear that the Bryanites and Populist representatives and senators hurried on this war rather to forward their political aims than to effect the liberation of Cuba. We do not believe or say this is so; but that it should appear to be so is not creditable to the professional politicians of the Democratic party.

Most of the admendments proposed in the senate are either unconstitutional or so obnoxious to public sentiment that their evasion will be regarded by those who are affected by their imposition as moral and natural. Grant the power to the government or the state, and it is possible to tax any industry out of existence. The richest trust and the struggling tradesman will not and cannot withstand unlawful and illegitimate taxation. Some of the admendments to the revenue bill are not meant and never will be used for the purpose of raising a war revenue. They are insidious attacks under the guise of patriotism on capital.

This war continues to stimulate the inventors. The latest one to offer a new device of apparently considerable value is John H. Allyn, of Whitesboro, N. Y., who proposes such an adjustment of mirrors about our battleships that when they approach the enemy, he will think he is looking at nothing more formidable than the waves of the sea. It is said the navy department is seriously contemplating giving the device a trial.

At Mt. Gretna the army branch of the Pennsylvania Young Men's Christian association, during the recent encampment there, maintained a large tent in which local and illustrated papers, magazines, books, etc., were placed within reach of soldiers free of cost; also, stationary, drinking water, and games of skill. In the evenings gospel services were held. At Mt. Gretna this feature proved a most welcome and valuable addition to camp life; and it is now proposed, through permission of General Miles, to provide a corresponding tent and service for the benefit of the Pennsylvania troops at Camp Alger. The proposition is in the highest sense patriotic and deserves to meet with all possible co-operation.

No matter what you read in the newspapers, put it down as settled that the United States flag will soon be flying over Hawaii, forevermore.

Freedom's Battle Yet to Be Fought

From Harper's Weekly.

THE FACT that an international alliance is desired by Englishmen of all parties is now one of the foremost facts of international politics. Mr. Chamberlain's words are an inspiration to every one who realizes the full significance of an alliance between Great Britain and the United States. It would be an alliance of the democratic peoples of the world, and that there may be speedy need of it, if the world is not to move backwards, is clear to all who are watching the course of the nations of the continent of Europe. For more than a hundred years the monarchy of Great Britain and the republic of the United States have stood for the lighter pressure of the law, the complete elision of the unrestrained power of any one man over any other, the larger liberty of the individual. The race has not only developed the man by leaving to him the gains of his genius, but it has opened the world to civilization. It has illumined Asia and Africa and the Southern seas. It oppresses no one, but, on the contrary, it has abolished slavery by its own acts and by its influence and example. In spite of all that can be said of England's land-grabbing, it remains true that there is no land in which Englishmen have founded colonies that is not the better in every way for their coming. English institutions, English order, English law, English justice, English fair-play to the native and the foreigner, and English commerce have rendered English colonies the only successful of the attempts made by European governments to rule in distant countries and over alien people.

Great Britain has profited by the mistake so disastrous to her and so profitable to our fathers and to us. She has voluntarily left her colonists in Canada and in Africa and Australiasia as free to rule their own affairs as are we of the United States by reason of the revolution which derived her of her richest possession. The roots of the two nations go deep into a rich and historic past. It is from old Teutonic soil that we draw the instinct of self-government and our strong passion for individual liberty. With these innate possessions, which are apparently lost for the time by our German kinsmen, and which are incomprehensible to the men of the Latin race, Great Britain and the United States are playing much the same part in the world. There are differences and there have been discords between the two. Neither is an easy country to get on with. A strong individuality is likely to be both disagreeable and trustworthy. But despite the differences and discords, the systems of law in the two countries are the same, the same idea prevails as to the relations of the people to their government, the sympathies of both have been manifested in behalf of the oppressed and the down-trodden. Above all, here and in England exists the same worshipful respect for the rights of the man, and especially for his right to control himself and to play his own part so long as he does not injure his neighbor. In these two countries, among all others, do men love justice so dearly that the same law governs the ruler and the ruled. Under the system which she has established since she lost this country, England has wonderfully prospered, and in her prosperity we have seen the growth and expansion of the fundamental idea of government on which our own state is based. And we must feel, now that the appeal for a closer union is made to us, that the seed from which this growth and expansion have come, and without which it could not live, must be saved if we are ourselves to remain the master that we have been and that we are.

The nations which are hostile to all this have joined for the purpose not only of limiting, but of crushing Great Britain. The governments of the czar and of the kaiser, of the emperor of Austria and of the king of Italy are against England and the English and American theory of government, and are endeavoring to destroy some of its richest fruitage. The enemies of the rights of the individual are contemplating war on democracy and while the animating spirit of this united hostility to England and this country is jealousy of the commercial prosperity of both, that cannot be checked or destroyed without assailing the political principle on which the American and English people have thrived. Their enmity is directed in reality against the danger to them and their thrones foreseen in the expansion of English and American influences. But they will not attack our united race. They will not risk a conflict with all the forces at the command of the highest civilization of the century. On our part, we do not desire expansion. If we are wise, we will decline to enter a movement which has planted European frontiers in every part of the globe. But if we make a preventive alliance with Great Britain, we join her in saying that Anglo-Saxon institutions shall be defended by all who live under them wherever they are attacked; such an alliance will do a thousand times more for the peace of the world than all the guns and navies that the kaiser and the czar can heap upon one another.

NOTES ON RECENT PUBLICATIONS

In "The Londoners" (Chicago: Herbert S. Stone & Co.) Robert Hichens turns his incisive genius upon London high society, which he pictures as something about half way between broad farce and blunt burlesque. It is the story of a bored woman who wanted to get out of society conspiring with an ambitious woman who wanted to get in to further both their aims by the simple process (in fiction) of masquerading one as a man, and thus occasioning a scandal. This plot offers rich situations and Mr. Hichens has improved most of them with a riotousness of humor suggesting Dickens and a strenuousness of style suggesting very emphatically the author of "The Green Carnation."

"A Bride of Japan" (Chicago: Herbert S. Stone & Co.) has for its central figure a captivating Oriental woman in whom natural goodness of heart struggled with scant success against inherited license and the promptings of an environment not overly fastidious morally. In other words, the Japanese bride about whom Carlton Dawe has woven a pathetic little story is an amiable, affectionate and withal pitiable wanton, whose life-story shows that the standards of one civilization cannot be imposed instantaneously upon the people of another. The moral taught, if a moral is taught—and on this point we are in doubt—is that rarest of blessings, charity.

An American, Emory W. Fenn, who spent ten months in 1897 with the Cuban insurgents under General Garcia, recites his experiences in the Century for June. These are quite interesting in their testimony as to the sufferings and privations which the insurgents have undergone; but they shed little light upon the Cuban military problem. The one noteworthy conclusion derivable from Mr. Fenn's paper is that with Spain out, Cuba will gain a new and marvelous lease of life.

Cuba figures in the June Forum to the extent of three leading articles. "Our War with Spain: Its Justice and Necessity" is the title of a paper in which Senator Foraker defends with spirit and ability the stand of the senate for war; "Cuba and Its Value as a Colony" affords Robert T. Hill, who as a geologist of the United States Geological survey has repeatedly traversed the island, an opportunity to prove that a more valuable piece of real estate does not anywhere exist; and in "The War for Cuba" Joseph E. Chamberlin, one of the New York Evening Post's war correspondents, affects a disdainful Mugwump mein. Senator Foraker's paper in particular ought to be read by every American.

Joseph Dana Miller occupies the place of honor in the June number of Godey's with an eloquent article exhibiting the humanitarian side of the Cuban problem. Beside this there is the usual quota of well-selected fiction, fashions and miscellany.

In ten days, under the stimulus of George Kennan's connection with it as war correspondent, the Outlook has gained 9,836 new subscribers. Mr. Kennan's letters from Tampa and Key West are among the most vivid, brilliant and judicious of any we have seen, and it is clear that it will be well worth the public's while to follow up his story of the war. The Outlook editorially seems almost beyond improvement; especially will good Americans be pleased by its outspoken patriotism at a time when some eminent Christians appear to be willing to compromise the teachings of Christianity in their eagerness to get out of the war with Spain.

Current History for the first quarter of 1898 puts in well-digested record the essence of the news of those lively three months and wins new admiration for the skill and impartiality with which it is edited.

THE SIXTH MASSACHUSETTS

From the Sun.

The welcome given by Baltimore to the Sixth Massachusetts on Sunday will be memorable in our national history. That regiment, thirty-seven years ago, on April 19, 1861, while marching through Baltimore from the Philadelphia to the Washington station, was attacked by a mob and lost four killed and many wounded in the fight. "To the Massachusetts Sixth," says Nicolay, "belongs the unfading honor of being the first regiment, armed and equipped for service, to respond to the president's call" for troops in the civil war. It was also the first regiment to make the supreme sacrifice of life on the altar of the country in that war.

Most fittingly, therefore, did Baltimore honor Sunday's march of this regiment through its streets, between the Charles street and the Camden street stations, with a great display of fraternity and patriotism. Maryland and Massachusetts, the Carolinas and California, are now under one flag, fighting for a common country.

PRAISE FROM SIR HUBERT.

From the London Spectator.

At present it looks very much as if President McKinley were going to turn out one of the plain men who are re-made and illuminated by the force of the mighty issues with which they have to deal. All the accounts from Washington seem to show that the president is facing a very difficult problem with just the quiet dignity and strength which one would desire to see displayed by the head of the state.

Commercial Spurs.

"Your typewriter girls seems to be very ambitious."

"She is; she has one great and powerful ambition."

"What is it?"

"She wants to get off earlier every afternoon."—Chicago Record.

Public Spirited.

"That old Skinflint across the street there has done more to boom Bungtown than any other man here."

"He has? Why, he acts like a surly, quarrelsome fellow."

"I know; but that man has been the making of eleven of our lawyers."—Truth.

Letting Him Down Softly.

"You refuse to marry me," he said bitterly, "because I am poor."

"Well, yes," she replied; "it would pain me too much to have people hurt your feelings by saying that you married me for my money."—Philadelphia North American.

IN MEMORY.

Over the graves where the dead do lie
She scatters her flowers today for the sweet
Sad memory of the years gone by;
And the life that pulsed and the hearts that beat,
But the flag as a guidon flutt'ring free,
Where a soldier sleeps in his close green tent,
Dumb in its starry bright blazonry
Thrills her heart with a strange new meaning blent,
The flowers she strews for the dead are today
But the tears that rain from her dear young eyes
Fall for her soldier far away
Where a tented town on a southern hill lies.

—H. C. P.

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In Carload Lots.

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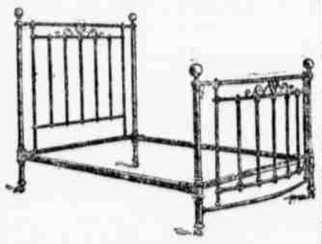

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