

The Scranton Tribune

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

New York Office: 350 Nassau St., S. S. VRELAND, Sole Agent for Foreign Advertising.

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

TEN PAGES.

SCRANTON, NOVEMBER 16, 1898.

The next mayor of Scranton should be a man of strong will power and sturdy backbone. He should be both a planner and a fighter. He should be more than a figurehead. He should be the city's real chief executive—a man among men.

Colonel Stone's Opportunity.

The Lancaster New Era reads a deserved rebuke to the Harrisburg Telegraph for arguing that the inauguration of Governor Stone should be made the occasion of a costly and elaborate ceremonial. It would doubtless please the people of Harrisburg to have a lot of money spent on that occasion; but it would not please the taxpayers of Pennsylvania, who believe in simplicity and economy, and we are quite certain that it would not please the governor-elect.

If we have formed a correct estimate of the man, Colonel Stone is going to surprise those who are looking for an era of profligacy and lax government during his administration. There is undoubtedly such a sentiment of expectation among a portion of the people, fomented largely by the recent tactics of the opposition; but it cannot survive an open demonstration to the contrary. Such a demonstration, we predict, will be made. Already things are afoot to this end. It is significant that the governor-elect has established relations of cordiality and mutual confidence with such influential legislative leaders as Senators Martin and Magee, men who will stand like some walls among the members of the next assembly for legislative economy and fair play. This, added to his natural following among the Quaker forces, will give him practically a united party in the law-making branch, and clothe him with power to strangle at its birth much legislative jobbery and "strike" legislation.

Another hopeful augury is noticeable in the general belief prevalent among the political wiseacres that in selecting his cabinet Colonel Stone will widen the circle of political recognition and refinement which in recent years has become somewhat narrow in Pennsylvania and will invite to sit in conference with him men who represent constituencies as well as personal preferences. The confirmation of this belief would signify a determination on the part of the incoming executive to broaden the foundations of Republicanism in this state and to take safeguards against further party suicide through wear and tear of unnecessary factionalism; and it is pretty sure to be confirmed.

All this can be done without wars or the rumors of wars if firmness is united with honest purpose and tact with both. It is William A. Stone's opportunity and his friends have confidence that he will meet it.

Authorities at Wilmington, S. C., are endeavoring to persuade the negroes who have taken to the woods to return to the city. This action may be explained by the fact that it is not as easy to shoot a negro in the brush as when he is out in the open street.

Silas C. Swallow.

The character of man is revealed in defeat as well as in success. Since the ballots decided adversely to his vain aspirations the Rev. Dr. Swallow has disclosed more plainly than ever before his narrow and uncharitable mind and the bigotry which is his principal ingredient. In the last issue of his paper for example, without cause, pretext or occasion, he went out of his way to heave a handful of mud at a respected fellow-clergyman eminent in his own denomination, the Rev. Dr. George Edward Reed, president of Dickinson college. Dr. Reed had courteously disagreed with Dr. Swallow during the campaign; hence, after it is all over, he gets as his punishment the following coarse diatribe printed in the Harrisburg Commonwealth:

It was no ordinary campaign. It was waged by the friends of good government for the overthrow of a gang of thieves of the worst possible character. Dr. Reed ranged himself side by side with the thieves, took up their defense, peddled their arguments, fraternized with a set of red-headed drunks, outraged every act of decency, and made the conduct of the thought of the better class of people all over the state as an exceedingly weak, not to say seemingly wicked man.

The foregoing extract is only part of a long editorial in Dr. Swallow's newspaper which throughout is grossly abusive of Dr. Reed. We dignify it by noticing it only that the men and women of Lackawanna county who have heretofore been in sympathy with the Harrisburg parson in his political activities may know what kind of a man he really is. During the campaign Dr. Reed said not one discourteous or unkind word of Dr. Swallow. His remarks were the carefully chosen remarks of a broad-minded Christian gentleman and citizen unselfishly interested in the welfare of the commonwealth as he saw it. Though he differed from Dr. Swallow in opinion and judgment he was scrupulously careful of the latter's feelings and of what was due to one educator of public thought from another. His fight to think differently from Dr. Swallow is unquestioned and unquestionable, yet for daring to exercise it he is now wantonly held up in Dr. Swallow's newspaper to scorn and ridicule and things are said of him which are as false as the falsehoods of the devil himself. The assertions made in Swallow's paper give Dr. Reed grounds for a prosecution at law and are sufficient once more to convict the scurrilous Harrisburg divine for libel if he were worth the trouble; but fortunately the people of Pennsylvania as a whole have taken his true measure; only in Lackawanna

were any considerable number of them foiled.

Carbondale's new evening paper, the News, has made its appearance. It is a neat four-pager, six columns to the page, and begins life with a judicious presentation of news, comment, miscellany and advertisements, the latter encouragingly numerous. The News makes no promises except that it will be fair in business and squarely Republican in politics, and altogether creates a good impression. We wish it success.

Christian Science and Law.

The action of the English coroner's jury in holding criminally responsible for Harold Frederic's death the two women Christian Scientists who induced Frederic to forego the services of a regular physician has provoked an animated discussion. The law in England holds that a person who hastens another's death by overt act or omission of duty is guilty of homicide; and the coroner's jury considers that in depriving Frederic of proper medical care, Mrs. Mills, and her adviser, Mrs. Mills, have come within this purview of the law. Their trial, if one occurs, should prove interesting as tending to define the law in such premises. From the standpoint of common sense it would seem that if Harold Frederic, while in his senses, chose to dispense with medicine and take his chances it was nobody else's business. A different case would be presented if Frederic had been weakened in mental power until not responsible and had then been inveigled into purchasing the futile ministrations of a Christian Science healer. The principle involved in the latter case frequently arises in this country and we have no hesitancy in saying that where imposture and undue influence are present, the law should prosecute to the uttermost limit. Society, having required regular practitioners of medicine to exhibit a certain standard of proficiency and to register, is in honor bound to prevent quackery if it can and to punish it when it cannot. This is an obvious requirement of fair play.

But attempts to prevent the spread of the Christian Science idea by repressive legislation or by unfair invocations of the law will simply multiply its adherents as if by magic and bring up in humiliating failure. This peculiar specimen of human credulity will have to run its course like the innumerable religious vagaries that have preceded it; and the fewer the obstacles put in that course the quicker it will be traversed.

Osborne Deigan, the Merrimack hero, refused to be kissed by a bevy of Iowa girls. It seems there is a limit to the bravery of even a naval hero.

Two Sides of a Case.

Looking candidly at the situation in the light we have, it must be said that there is a good deal of substantial justice in the memorial of the Filipinos to President McKinley summarized in The Tribune of yesterday. American public opinion has not been wholly fair to these far-off children of Spanish intrigue, deception and repression. As in the case of the Cubans, it has made insufficient allowances; its judgments have been snap judgments, having in view only superficial appearances and not going to the bottom of things.

Americans who pause to think cannot expect Spanish rule as it has been in every Spanish colony; substantially without change since the moment of its earliest institution—a rule based on the principle of everything for the rulers and nothing for the ruled; a rule that has shut out education, made candor and honesty in civic affairs unknown terms and reduced to a fine art the science of dissimulation—Americans who take due account of these facts cannot expect either the Cubans or the Filipinos to jump in a day from the conditions of bondage to the high plane of enlightened liberty as Anglo-Saxons know it. Americans who expect of these mal-used wards of Spain now become our wards a standard of intelligence, gratitude and broad disinterestedness such as would become the products of a century of true democracy clearly expect the impossible. Such expectations are manifestly unreasonable; yet every failure of the Cubans or Filipinos to come up to them is reported in many of our newspapers glowingly, as if it were a matter to be used against them and a warrant for the cancellation of our moral obligations in the premises. The tone of superficial comment, a year ago so eulogistic, is now deliberately contemptuous. From one extreme which clothed the revolting colonialists with virtues they did not possess to another extreme which would deny them any virtues whatever we have passed with ridiculous celerity and it is small wonder that the more intelligent onlookers of Cubans and Filipinos cannot understand it; are, in fact, disposed to take umbrage at it.

There is need of remembrance of the fact that the far-off Filipinos do not all know the American government's ultimate purpose as we in this country know it, and cannot comprehend the lofty unselfishness and high philanthropy which back of all the sputter over expansion, is the president's chief impelling motive in the decision that Spanish misrule over the Philippines must give way to a better order of things. They see American soldiers in possession of their own capital, fraternizing with their late enemies, the Spaniards, while they themselves are treated with indifference if not with open and aggressive contempt, are disarmed and ordered to stand back; and when their ships try to sail the seas are held up as pirates. These things, to be sure, are all necessary under the peculiar international conditions now prevailing; with patience and pluck they will all work out right in the end; but to the ill-informed and credulous natives they supply grounds for wonderment and distrust, and the tension is not lessened by the curt and un diplomatic methods natural to American military rule. To cap all, American newspapers are put into their hands which scoff at their pretensions, invest with ridicule their leaders and convey the impression that they have no rights which anybody is bound to respect. No wonder they wince; who wouldn't under such circumstances? We need to look at both sides of such

questions as the ruffians have just raised; we need to get rid of the illusion that the American flag raised over alien peoples by the mere fact of going up does all that needs to be done for them, even to working instantaneous miracles in human nature.

The Spanish troops at Havana display good judgment in the endeavor to secure their pay while there is collateral in sight.

Figures That Talk.

Under the Spanish budget for the present year, \$26,550,650 was to be collected from the people of Cuba and \$26,374,055 was to be spent in governing them. The principal receipts were to be: From taxes on real estate, income tax, liquor licenses and other internal revenue taxes, \$6,142,500; import and export duties, and other income from the custom houses, \$14,705,000; stamp paper and stamps of all kinds, \$1,040,000; from the lottery, \$1,900,500; sales of effects of the state, \$132,000; from other sources, \$1,536,000; making a total of \$26,550,650. The expenses are given as follows: For the government of the island under the authority of the governor general, \$22,500,595. For the local government (autonomous), as follows: General obligations, \$159,605; department of grace, justice and government, \$1,612,859; department of the treasury, \$708,978; department of public instruction, \$247,033; department of public works and communications, \$1,036,582; department of agriculture, industry and commerce, \$198,178; making a total of \$26,374,055.

It is estimated by the authorities at Washington that upon the assumption of control of Cuba by the United States certain expenses now incurred each year under Spanish sovereignty will cease, namely: Civil, military and other pensions, \$27,700; the retired list of the army and navy, \$1,450,881; interest and amortization of the debts created in 1852, 1886 and 1890, \$10,435,183; for expenses of military governors and the permanent military establishment of the island, composed of Spanish forces, as well as material for war, \$4,308,324; expenses of the naval establishment in the island, \$1,100,239; subsidy paid the Compania Transatlantica de Spain, \$471,836; salaries of the governor general and other officials and officers, \$500,000, making a total reduction of \$20,584,225. Of course Cuba will have to pay the costs of our intervention out of her current receipts, but the sum will be far less than that imposed by Spain, while the returns in good government and public improvements will be infinitely greater.

Think of a power squeezing \$20,000,000 a year out of a population of less than 1,000,000 people and then giving back to its victims only \$247,033 annually for the purposes of public instruction. Is it any wonder Cuba rebelled? Remember, these are Spain's own figures.

It is evident that the stars did all their shooting before election.

The Only Question As Yet Involved.

NEARLY all Americans who discuss the question of the peace treaty agree that the late colonies of Spain cannot be given back to her, even if the Philippines, Porto Rico, and Cuba, her power has been destroyed completely. She could not recover it, and attempt to do so would breed dreadful anarchy and confusion, which civilization has never known. Her power must be put in possession of the Philippines again only by directing the military power of the United States against the insurgents in that island. This is not to be done in any more than re-establishment of Spanish sovereignty in Cuba.

All critics of the administration are agreed on this point. Senator Hoar in his Worcester speech declared that Spanish power must be extinguished permanently in all her late colonies occupied by us. The Democratic Independent organs of public opinion in New York city agree that Spain's dominion over the islands must be relinquished. One would leave them to stew in their juices if they archly and the other would train them to independence by the quickest possible means, but that is an after-consideration. There is absolutely no contention as to the proposition that Spain must relinquish her power.

Now this is really the only question involved in our peace negotiations with Spain. Those do not relate to the future possession or government of the islands; that will be decided later. We have made no mistake in our territorial cession, except in case of Porto Rico, about which there is no dispute. All we ask in case of Cuba and the Philippines is that Spain shall relinquish them to complete and unqualified sovereignty. This has been well understood as to Cuba from the beginning, and it begins to be seen now that Cuba and the Philippines stand on precisely the same footing. There has been loose talk about "demanding" the Philippines from Spain; but Washington dispatches make it clear that the demand is that Spain shall leave them.

Present negotiations do not look beyond this. The future of sovereignty and government of the islands does not concern Spain or the peace commission. That is an affair between the people of the islands and us, and between both and civilization. It will be settled later in the common interest of all. It is not in question anywhere now. The government which will supersede Spain's in all the islands is our temporary military government. It will be months, if not years, before their permanent status can be determined. This is one reason why we are warranted in absolute refusal even to consider assumption or guaranty of any part of the Spanish debt. That question will come up later, if at all.

AN HONEST BALLOT LAW.

From the Philadelphia Times. One of the most important duties of the next legislature will be the revision of our present antiquated, unintelligible and embarrassing ballot law. It was deliberately framed to hinder the freedom of the ballot instead of giving the greatest possible latitude for the citizen to express his convictions at the polls. It is an embarrassing law to the voter, multiplies opportunities for honest mistakes, and opens wide the door for systematic fraud.

There is but one way to make an honest ballot, and that is to go back to the simple Australian system. The Australian ticket has the name of every candidate, with the party he represents, distinctly printed under the appropriate title of the office, and the voter has only to mark the name of his favorite, if not only makes it an easy task for every citizen to vote his honest convictions for every office, but it invites the considerate judgment of the voter, because he receives upon the particular candidate for each office, if he be ignorant or a stranger to

the language he can readily make out the will of his party to guide him unerringly in voting his wishes.

There must be an organized and determined effort made to get an honest ballot law for Pennsylvania. It will be bitterly fought by those who make politics a trade and the ballot box a plaything to serve their purposes, but the sentiment of the people of Pennsylvania in favor of reform, and especially in favor of ballot reform, will be expressed with such emphasis that even the party leaders who hate an honest ballot will be compelled to bow to the popular will.

Not only should the ballot be simplified as we have suggested, by going to the original Australian system, but the courts should be required upon the sworn petition of ten or more qualified electors of any precinct to open the box and recount the vote when in session to compute the returns. Such proceeding would not impair in any degree the secrecy of the ballot, as the number of each ticket is carefully hidden by a posted fold over it. There is no excuse, therefore, for refusing to open a ballot box when there is any ample charge of fraud presented to the court, and the reform in our present election law would do more to hinder fraud than all other remedial changes combined. When fraud can thus be easily exposed it would be dangerous to attempt it, and it would require a very reckless election officer to make a false return. We must have an honest ballot law, and if party leaders shall oppose it they must be overthrown.

WILLIAM MCKINLEY.

From the Denver Times. The next house and senate will be Republican by an easy working majority. This ought to be particularly gratifying to President McKinley, whose administration has entered to a great extent into the campaign and the events that preceded it. There was no great effort exerted by the Republican party of the country to capture the present congress, for they would have succeeded just as well at the next election had the Democrats been successful. One of the theories of Republican politics in our time is to let the Democrats have the congress, for they can be depended upon to blunder, and out of these blunders grow great Republican majorities. The theory of the Democrats is that the country were determined to endorse the administration of a man in whom they reposed confidence.

What must be the feelings of the Democratic party? Left without issue and without hope they hovered like vultures over the camps and battlefields during and after the war in search of an issue that they might delve into with their beaks. No party can triumph that relies upon blunders and defeats. The Democrats have lost to the Democrats in all parts of the country are the most stinging rebuke that could be offered by a loyal people against the methods they resorted to.

But after the strife has passed and there is an opportunity to calmly review the situation, there is one man who stands out over and grander than he ever did before in the minds of the American people, and that man is the statesman, Christian, gentleman and American—President William McKinley. There was a time when he was known as William McKinley, the soldier and defender of the Union, then he came to be known as William McKinley, the statesman and the politician, and lastly as William McKinley, the man, the executive and the Christian gentleman in whom the people of a great nation repose faith.

When the guns from Dewey's ships belched forth their brazen notes on that bright May morning, the people of America were born for this country. And on that morning the veil of distrust the maligners of Mr. McKinley had placed between him and the people was torn away, and Mr. McKinley, the politician, as the people had been led to believe, became what he really is and always has been—McKinley, the American and statesman. Whatever the radicals of the hour may say against the administration, they cannot cause the people to believe that the president was not the man at the helm who guided the ship of state in a successful course. President McKinley has made the world respect the American nation and has shown it that our hands are always raised in behalf of humanity.

History has appointed us with many of the great men of the past, and as a nation we are proud to have such a man as Mr. McKinley. He is the man of the future, and as the years roll on and generations to come read of William McKinley, they will read of him as one of the greatest presidents the country ever had, and the chief of the new nation of the western hemisphere.

EXPANSION'S REAL MEANING.

From the Outlook. The anti-expansionists, if he wishes to carry any weight by his arguments with the expansionists, must set aside himself to showing that America ought not to exercise imperial authority over the inhabitants of Cuba, Porto Rico, and the Philippines, or to showing that it will be perilous for the United States to receive as states into the Union, those islands; but he must show that we have no responsibility to furnish guidance, guardianship, and protection to the people of those islands in establishing free, just, self-governing communities, or that it is wholly impossible for us so to do. We do not believe that there could be found a minority sufficiently large to be worthy counting in the desire of America to govern distant provinces as Rome governed Palestine. What the expansionist desires to see is the United States giving protection, inspiration, and assistance to communities created from existing despotism, and needing the blessings of freedom, justice, and self-government.

GARCIA AND GOMEZ.

New York Commercial Advertiser. General Garcia enjoys the distinction of being the first Cuban general to enter Havana. He takes it modestly, and that is to his credit. Meanwhile General Gomez is still in the brush, commanding his army. Since that "army" has been ordered disbanded, General Gomez will have soon to declare himself. Garcia has given complete admission to the United States as a patriotic and intelligent Cuban could hardly help doing. Gomez, who is not a native Cuban, but a Dominican of fortune, seems to be standing out for something in the way of personal concession. He will be disappointed. The only men the United States can use are the men who put themselves without reserve on the American side and show an earnest disposition to work with American officials in bringing back order and plenty to the unhappy island.

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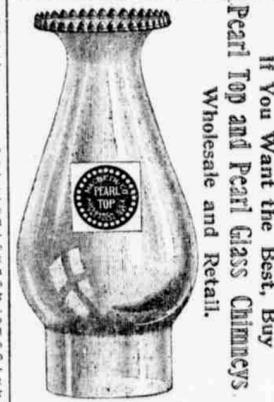
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