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SCRANTON, DECEMBER 17, 1898.

Andrew Carnegie says that "bitu-
minous coal is the curse of Pittsburg."
Unless an organized move is made
against the stuff it will probably soon
become the curse of Scranton.

Benjamin J. Haywood.
As a result of the blood-moat fac-
tion of factional opponents who have
struck at him in the hope of injuring
another, it is announced that ex-State
Treasurer Benjamin J. Haywood has
wounded himself seriously if not dan-
gerously sick.

Fighting the Army.
It is reported that a coalition of Dem-
ocratic, Populist and Silverite sena-
tors is being formed with a view to
defeating any legislation designed to
strengthen the regular army. The
coalition, it is added, will assume the
position that the regular army as re-
cented at present up to the \$2,000 limit
is ample for all necessities and that to
reorganize and modernize the standing
army along the lines suggested by the
administration would be useless ex-
travagance as well as a "ventral
menace to the perpetuity of free insti-
tutions."

Words of Hope.
"The victory we celebrate is not that
of a ruler, a president, or a congress,
but of the people. The peace we have
won is not a selfish truce of arms, but
one whose conditions presage good to
humanity. The domains secured under
the treaty yet to be acted upon by the
senate come to us not as the result of
a crusade of conquest but as the
reward of temperate, faithful and fear-
less resistance to the evil of conquest,
which could not be discredited by a
liberty-loving and Christian people. We
have no home ourselves in the conflict
and in our intercourse with the powers
of the world as to escape complaint or
complication and to give universal con-
fidence of our high purpose and un-
selfish sacrifice for a struggling people."

A Poser for Mr. Bryan.
Mr. Bryan's theatrical declaration
against the holding of an alien people
in vassalage—an accusation against
expansion which grows out of his im-
agination entirely—is cleverly met by
the Washington Star which says:
"Nothing could be clearer than that
the government that Cuba, Porto Rico
and the Philippines are to enjoy under
the American flag will be infinitely
superior to that which was provided
by Spain. What Mr. Bryan calls vas-
salage will in comparison with their
past condition be a blessing to Spain's
former subjects. And as they rise in
the scale it is certain to be toward
greater blessings. But how about the
hundreds of thousands of disfranchised
voters in the southern states, where
Mr. Bryan's strength as a political
leader centers? What is their condi-
tion? If a man may not vote for those
who are to make and those who are
to execute the laws he must obey, and
to which both his life and his property
are subject, what is he if not a vas-
sal? Does the government, state or
national, derive any just powers from
him? Will Mr. Bryan, now that the
question of expansion has stirred his
soul about vassalage, address himself
to the correction of this evil here at
home? The men affected are not aliens
or heathens. Nor are they all negroes.
Many of them are white men, and all
are citizens of the United States and
entitled to vote under the broad pro-
scription of the constitution."

Chicago's political school board, after
a good deal of squinting and grimac-
ing, has at last capitulated absolutely
to City Superintendent Andrews who
will hereafter have entire charge of
the hiring, promotion and dismissal of
teachers and an advisory voice at all
meetings of the board. Chicago's ex-
ample in this respect deserves to be
studied far and wide.

The Speaker's ship.
The endorsement by Secretary of the
Commonwealth David Martin of the
candidate of Representative John H.
Farr for the speakership of the next
state house of representatives brings
to Mr. Farr's support an influential
element in the composition of that body
and is taken by many observers to
presage his election. His attitude with
reference to the recent factional
strife which has rent the state is
favorable to the inauguration
of a programme of honor-
able harmony and conciliation, and his
work as a legislator and experience in
parliamentary practice well qualify him
for the duties of the speakership.

On local grounds especially the success
of Mr. Farr's candidacy would prove
pleasing news, since it would confer
both distinction and power upon a rep-
resentative of local interests who has
always in the past worked earnestly
and intelligently in their behalf and
who, as speaker, could without im-
propriety aid largely in their promo-
tion.

It is announced that the Anti-Imper-
ialist League of Boston will call a
convention to formulate an alternative for
annexation. It will in that contin-
gency have a capacious job on its
hands.

It is evident that the magazine war
articles have been published too soon
after the efforts of the yellow corres-
pondent to create much interest.

Colonel Bryan's anti-expansion ideas
it is said are quite elastic after all.

According to Don Maximo Cortes, the
worthy Filipino now in Washington, the
better classes of the educated native of
the Philippines are not in favor of
annexation. History tells us that after
the battle was over, he led his com-
pany back to the church and finished
the sermon, displaying by his act a coolness
not unlike that of George Dewey at Ma-
nila, who took a recess during the battle
and served breakfast to his sailors after
Captain Elijah Dewey, Esq. Simon
Dewey and Captain William Dewey, all
immediate relatives of the admiral, were
very much in evidence during the re-
volutionary war. No other name shows
more brightly in the annals of his coun-
try in that struggle for freedom than
the name of Dewey.

Representative De Armond, a Missouri
Democrat ambitious for leadership
honors, undertook the other day to lock
horns with Speaker Cannon. He was
replied: "The gentleman from Missouri
has permitted himself to make statements
in regard to the relations between the
speaker and the other members of the
committee on rules that I am happy to
state are not justified by the facts. It so
happens in this world that there are many
members. It so happens that in the house
of representatives there are many mem-
bers, and that while in theory every man
can occupy all the time in discourse, in
actual practice only a few can occupy it
in subordination to the rights of every
other member, to the rights of the body itself,
and to the prosecution of public business.
In actual practice, also, the house
have noticed that however much despotism
is exercised by the rule, there is no
subject in the heavens above or in the
earth beneath that has not been discussed
even in this present congress. Laugh-
ter. Now, if the gentleman from Miss-
ouri will turn to the annals of congress
liberty such as he thinks he desires, he
will find that John Randolph, who cer-
tainly was held enough to become im-
mortal for a century, was complaining
about the despotism of the rules at that
period, asserting that even the arch in-
solent and arrogant house have satisfied
with the wickedness of them. So you
see that human nature is the same in all
times."

The following bit of information from a
current Havana dispatch is an interesting
episode to the careful student of the Cuban
autonomous cabinet, just before quitting
office, to auction off a lot of valuable
commissions covering future years: "General
Wade, president of the American com-
mission and Colonel Chase today visited
General Castellanos and conferred with
him regarding the railroad concessions
granted by Benito Diaz, secretary of pub-
lic works, not only in Havana but in the
territory already occupied by the Amer-
icans. The visit was made in accordance
with instructions sent to General Wade
by President McKinley. General Castellanos
told General Wade that he would
see that the desires of the American gov-
ernment in the matter were satisfied.
The Gazette Oficial will publish tomor-
row a decree issued by Captain General
Castellanos annulling the railroad and
tramway concessions granted by Secre-

tion on the score of commanding
fitness. The best way for General Brooke
to baffle this little battle is to prove
himself an administrator of the first
rank.

"There seems little doubt in my
mind," writes Mrs. B. Mae Gahan of
the New York Sun, "that were the
Americans to keep a steady hand on
their shoulders, trust Mr. McKinley,
and bide their time, allies would be
seeking them, and themselves could
well forego the present disgraceful pro-
ceeding of peddling their newly re-
vealed strength on the bargain coun-
ters of the Old World." Isn't this al-
leged peddling imaginary?

An offended Bostonian thus replies to
some aspersions on Christian Science:
"You cannot prevent the ultimate es-
tablishment of the truth or falsity of
Christian Science. If there is no truth
in the doctrine, it cannot live; if there
is truth in it you cannot kill it. A
few years will show whether you or
the Scientists are right." The test is
a fair one. Let discussion close mean-
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The Pops of Kansas, who soon go out
of bowler forever, are going to have
a special session of the legislature to
get in some farewell blows at the rail-
road corporations and the money power.
The Pop, even in his dying, is invariably
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The Spanish citizens of Havana will
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they did upon his last visit to the city,
even if they do not love him as well.

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