the Scranton Tribune

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

New York Office: 150 Namao St., S. S. VREELAND, Fole Agent for Foreign Advortising.

INTERED AT THE POSTOFFICE AT SCRANTON, PAG AS SECOND-CLASS MAIL MATTER.

SCRANTON, MARCH 30, 1899. Most people will be contented to forego the greater Scranton boom for

a time if we may have a cleaner Scranton during the coming season.

The Ananias of Local Journalism. The Scranton Times has almost from the moment that it came under its present management pursued a policy of sneaking misrepresentation of The Tribune's position, going out of its way to call The Tribune a corporation organ, a defender of monopoly and the like, impugning its motives, questioning its honesty and urging its readers to boycott The Tribune. When after patient endurance covering months and years we referred its deliberate lying about The Tribune we stated a truth of long-standing notoriety and one that could be described only by the words we used. We are hopeful that our neighbor will some day break itself of this bad and silly habit, which certainly does not injure us nor benefit it, but until does it will of its own choice remainnothing more not less than a plain, deliberate prevarienter, whose falseboods have neither provocation, plausshilitis, nor wit.

The task of another court martial avoids his man boot he is safe.

Short Sighted.

All kinds of reports are current as to the effects likely to follow the experimens of the New York Clearing House association in making a charge for the sollection of checks on out-oftown banks. The newspapers are divided on the subject and among business men there is an equal diversity of apinion. Newspapers and business men closely affiliated with the banks profess to believe that the ado about the new rule will soon blow over and that the proposed charge will in time come to be regarded as necessary and fair. On the other hand, there are those who denounce the action of the association as little less than highway transfer their accounts to trust companies or to banks not affiliated with the clearing house.

There is one feature of this subject which it sooms to us merits careful onsideration. The Clearing House association threatens to fine heavily or to expel any bank among its members caught waiving the proposed charge. In other words, we have here the essential principle of a conspiracy or combination in restrains of trade. The constituent members of the assointi n may all be willing to be bound bination, in which event a legal test of the association's powers to fine or expel may never be raised. But if any bank in the association should make up its mind to manage its business in its own way and carry its right to do this into the courts it could probably teach the association a lesson.

At a time when there is considerable political prejudice against national banks and when a great political party has recently polled 6,560,000 votes on a platform and by means of arguments and assertions largely almed at the banks the wisdom of the action taken by the New York Clearing House asea dation is not clear. From an outside standpoint it looks more like stupidity than wisdom

There is one grain of comfort lett for Colonel Bryan. His cause will no tonger be esponsed by Mrs. Mary Elizaboth Leaster.

Civil Service Reform.

Another attempt is to be made to put the state and municipal governments of Connsylvania on a civil service reform basis The Pennsylvania Civil Service Reform association is supporting a bill known as the Woodruff bill, which ! substantially identical with the bill prepared by the Republican state commit tee in 1895 and indorsed by the Republican state convention in 1896.

The bill introduced by Mr. Woodruff provides for the appointment by the governor of three commissioners who shall make the necessary rules and regulations and establish and supervise the system of open competitive exammations of a thoroughly practical charactor for ascertaining the comparative fitness of all applicants and for securing the appointment or promotion of those who are found to be best fitted ing over 150,000 inhabitants. Elective

aminations and eligible lists. In a circular explaining the provisions of this measure the association \$743.538." presents the general argument as fol-

of selecting employes for any other readuties to be performed, would be ruinous to any private corporation, and ests should be subjected to a system nesslike, and so prolific in all kinds of corruption and bad government."

This is the theory of civil service reform. The practical weakness of the so-called merit system as it is exemplifled in parts of the federal service is that it has been applied often dishonestly and generally without intelligent discrimination. The advocates of the reform, instead of applying it to minor positions involving routine qualifications such as clerkships, clerical positions and the like, have fought to include confidential and responsible positions which should be appointed at the discretion of the administration and in this way they have encouraged unnecessary opposition. Real civil service reform should put the public service on | days, the same footing as private service under competent supervision. It should give full scope to administrative officers in working out essential features of public policy without establishing an auction block for minor positions. It should encourage conscientious and faithful work but create no illusions as to indispensability. It should, in short, apply the principles which govern the successful conduct of private business for Eagan does not create any uneasi- enterprise, and neither more nor less. ness on the part of his friends. So It should go light on red tape examinlong as the ex-commissary officer ations with their abundant facilities for fraud or favoritism and place greater emphasis on actual ability as demonstrated by actual work.

Real civil service reform is bound to come in this country, but not until a good bit of the present sham masquerading under its colors is cut away.

Mr. Cleveland has refrained from criticising the country recently, and as he is writing a book it is presumed that his complaints will all be emhodled in one volume.

The News That Isn't Reported. From the remarks made by Postmaster Ceneral Smith concerning what he saw in Cuba as well as from other sources of equal reliability the inference is warranted that a good bit of rebbery and who claim that the de- the fuss and bother in our relations positors will either force its repeal or with that island indicated in the daily press dispatenes from Havara is superficial and itable to be received with undue enxlety in this country. The rivalries between this and that native faction for recognition and emolument and the incidental instances of brigandage or other lawlessness which form the themes of most of the news sent to American papers from Cuba are really circumstances of minor importance, like the cave-ins, hold-ups and highway robberies scattered broadeast through the press under a Scranton date line. A man living 500 miles away from Scranton and having no better knowledge of it than that which is conveyed in these exaggerated "news" dispatches might naturally suppose that Scranton is little else than a collection of cave-holes with Molly Maguire features on the side. Such a man, and unreliable sources, would miss enwhich is the real characteristic of our was pitiful.

told from day to day in a fragmentary way of the scraps and scandals of party spites of more or less prominent individual Cubans and of the difficultles in administration which are to be expected as matters of course in view of the peculiar and delicate circumstances of our intervention in Cuban stances of our intervention in Cuban process of stances of our intervention in Cuban affairs; but what we do not hear about in adequate detail or comprehend appreciatively is the quiet but steady progress in sanitation, public education, public conveniences and economic reconstruction and rehabilitation which, though not exploited in the public press, is after all the great fact in the whole situation. Here, for excial sense the report shows flattering conditions. The opposition to the more honest and exact system of doing busi-ness inaugurated by the United States government, which first manifested it-government, which first manifested itoff on the part of importers when the customs houses of the Island passed into American hands, is gradually passing away. The subordinate places in the entire customs service of Cuba are to perform the duries of the positions filled by natives. On the customs rolls to be alled. The act applies to the sub- of Havana are carried 276 employes, ordinate employes of the state and of at an aggregate monthly salary of \$10.the cities, and of countles co-termin- | see in American gold. During the month ous with cities, and counties contain- of January 217 vessels of all kinds, of a total tonnage of 219,307 tons, entered offices and certain special positions are the port of Havana, and 181, of a total excepted. So far as practicable there tonnage of 196,799 tons, cleared from are to be for each locality separate ex- that port for foreign ports. The total collections for the port during the month of January, 1899, amounted to

These few quoted words are hardly lows: "Under the spoils system the sensational enough to attract very genhead of a department, instead of being cral notice from the great body of free to exercise his own judgment, is American newspaper readers, yet they practically forced to select those who signify immensely. A writer for Harhave the most political influence, and per's Weekly has told recently in a to pay but little if any regard to their series of articles about the difficulties ability or fitness. Under the merit sys- encountered by our customs collectors tem the appointing officer is not only at the beginning of their work in Havenabled but obliged to select for ap- ana. Every merchant in the city obcointment or promotion those who will jected to paying the exact duties degive the public the best obtainable ser- manded. They had been accustomed cice. Under the spoils system each ap- to making false invoices and sharing pointment makes more enemies than the difference with the Spanish offi-'riends. Under the merit system no un- | ciais. The cierks objected to working successful applicant can complain of for an exact salary without the privenything but his own deficiences. Under liege of "swiping" from the public till the spoils system the offices are almost | Ali hands-clerks, importers, Vesselmonopolized by men of small capacity owners-rebelled because they had no

aminations are open to every citizen, and the best are easer to compete because their employment, retention and promotion are made to depend solely upon their merit and fitness, and because the world, as the world is proposed to the proposed the world is the world in the spoils. The best information are made to depend solely upon their merit and fitness, and because the world is proposed to the cause the work is honorable, the pay is | that this misconception, natural enough certain, and the opportunities for ad- in view of the prior conditions, has vancement are many. The public practically been overcome. The same should always be able to secure the merchants who a few months ago made most desirable applicants, but the plan it their business to bribe the custom house employes systematically now sons than merit and fitness for the make it their business to help the American overseer to keep a strict watch upon his subordinates. The "one there is no reason why the public inter- price, one treatment for all" plan of administering the customs is seen to which is so utterly absurd and unbusi- give a stability to business hitherto lacking. The merchants of Havana no port of entry; they can figure duty charges in as a fixed factor in the establishment of selling prices, and as they come to realize this they appreci-

ate the change in systems. This is only one illustration of the progress we have in mind. It is not a spectacular kind of progress that fills the American newspapers with startling headlines but it is progress just the same. And it means a great dea! more to all concerned than much of the subject matter of the Havana dispatches which do reach American readers every week day and twice or thrice on Sun-

The recent death of George Bidwell, the celebrated forger, closes the final chapter of a romance in real life which reads very much like a Sunday school library story turned wrong end on. The Bidwell brothers, George and Austin, as bankers, brokers and forger, lived on the fat of the land during their career of dishonesty until finally captured and sent to prison for swindling the Bank of England to the extent of \$5,000,000. Upon being released from confinement at the expiration of long sentences the Bidwell brothers attempted to live an honest life and were successful in warding off starvation for several years. But both often suffered from want and their bodes now rest in the potter's field. Hard is the way of the transgressor, even after repentance.

Sherman's Entry Into the Cabinet

W. E. Curtis, in Chicago Record. Mr Sherman's moods and disposition appear to have undergone a radical change within the last year or so. He was for-merly noted for his retleance, his coldness of temperament and his lack of sympa-thy with others. Recently he has become garrulous, genial and interested in every-body. He was considered selfish and narrow, and George Butler once said that if a knife were plunged into his heart it would come out covered with frost. This disposition did not interfere ccess as a politician, although it probably prevented his nomination for idency. His force of character, statement and his skill in the manage ment of political affairs were sufficient to accomplish all his ambitions, except the presidency, without the aid of the genial and sunshiny disposition Mr. Blaine pos-sessed. For years Mr. Sherman has been considered the ablest of American states men. He probably accomplished more during his career and had a greater influence upon the politics and the policy of this country and upon public events than any other man of his time. It was a pity that his career should have ended it did in a failure to grasp the affairs the state department, but the president was not aware of the extent of his mental weakness, and it was a long time before others of the cabinet realized how infirm Mr. Sherman's intellect had become. His forgetfulness, his querulous-ness and his almost childish simplicity gathering his information from meager and unreliable sources, would miss entirely the quiet but steady evolution in nomenal; then, without warning, he colucation, religion and public spirit would lapse into a senile disability that

And so with regard to Cuba we are Wildan McKinley Oshorne, now consulenergi at Lenden, to Washington to as Havana, of the vanities, jealousies and transfer his sphere of usefulness from arrived at 5 o'clock one afternoon in Jansary, 1897, took a room at the Arlington affice and asked for a little time tom the word centavos, der. The subject was discussed at stamp has the picture of train for Canton. At 8.50 promptly he appeared at the Sherman mansion, and to his atter amazement he was compelled. again, however, and Mr Sherman again asked time to consider.

When Mr. Osborne arrived in Canton the president-elect was at luncheon and greeted him with the inquiry: "Well, what did Uncle John have to say?" there, William," exclaimed Osman about going into your cabinet I ope you will select one who will renous-

Although he had been distinctly told in he evening and then again in the morning that Mr. Osborne was not authorized o tender him a position in the cabinet. Ir. Sherman assumed that he had done a wrote Mr. McKiniey a letter of thanks and acceptance and followed it by a per-sonal visit to Canton, where he discussed effairs as intelligently as he might have ient entirely deceived us to his con-

INTEMPERANCE IN DRUGS.

From the British Medical Journal. There is a source of nervous ailments ntirely special to this age, and the un-

reuroses or housess neurasthents, and is generally suppored. In the British it thus comes to pass that as the theraneutic activity of the profession tends to abolish disease, that of the public is mirals and hold the rank corresponding manufacturing it.

NEWS AND COMMENT.

thus tells how he came to got into poli-tics: "I entered the house of representatives of the United States at the spring session which began March 4, 189, at the beginning of Grant's administration. I can almost say with truth that my nomilonger fear that their rivals over the nation and election were against my own way are geiting better deals at the will. My life has been a singular instance of the fallure of early plans and expectations, and being drifted by the current of life into strange regions. I expected when I was admitted to the bar to spend my life in my office as what was called 'chamber counse,' and in making instruments, but never to take much part in the conduct of trials, or to conduct them at all, except with the help of senior counsel. I supposed I had an curable incapacity for speaking in pubhad some early professional successes, it was my whole desire and ambition some day to become a judge. It always seemed to me that the most delightful human occupation would be to go about the state, with four or five able lawyers, hearing and deciding questions of law. Sed dis alter visum. In the spring of 1568 I was broken down by overwork. My brain was so affected that I sometimes could not semantary for the state. times could not remember for two min-utes an important conversation, I would meet a client in the street. He would say something to me about an important uld say to myself. What was it that that man was talking with me about? engaged passage for a summer journey Europe. Just before I went some friends expressed a desire to nominate me ent, supposing that to go to Washington for a term would enable me to get ril of the burden of professional care and to recruit my jaded faculties. But as soon as I got out of sight of land and the load responsibilities was off my mind, my alth and vigor instantly came back. I returned from Europe ready to begin work again, and utterly sick of the whole idea of political life; but the matter had gone too far. I could not honorably re-treat without leaving in the lurch the men who had engaged in an active cam-paign in my behalf. So I was nominated over five or six competitors, after a severe struggle, and was elected."

A Havana correspondent of the Chicago Record gives the following interesting de-Record gives the following interesting de-scription of a Cuban railroad: A journey into the country in almost any direction from Havana is full of interest. There are a number of railway lines, each op-erating independent of the others. Some of these are fairly modern and well equipped, and also fairly well operated. Others were built "before the war"; not only before the struggle just ended, but before the ten years, war, even before the before the ten years' war, even before the civil war between the states, from ap pearance and condition even before the revolutionary war, when there were no railroads. At the Field Columbian museum are to be seen railway carringes quite like those in use on some of the lines en-tering Havana. The locomotives of the carliest periods are not quite up to those in use here, but the passenger coaches of the middle of the century drawing to a close are fair samples of the coaches in use on the morning trains of the Ville Nueva railroad, running out in a southwesterly direction to Guanajay, thirty-five miles from this city, just on the Pinar del Rio boundary. These coaches are low-ceilinged, have narrow doors small windows without glass, only shutters being in use; the seats are low. primitive wooden structures without floors are worn, splintered and filthy; the conductor is without uniform, unless a dirty cap with a tortoiseshell or cellu-loid visor may be considered an insignia of his high office; his personal appearance is almost as untidy as that of the humblest passenger riding on the cheapest fare, and after he has made his round he lounges idly with the passengers, smoking the omnipresent eigarette whether in the caboose or the ladies' car. All the employes smoke while on duty as when off duty. They all smoke cigar-ettes. Most of these are vite. A non-smoking passenger has no rights which anybody in this country is in the least bound to observe. V dies smoke; but some do. And the dingy close, low-topped cars are permeated with the vilest of fumes from the vilest of weeds being smoked by the vilest of human beings, as well as by these whos station in life is undisputed.

Th postoffice department is, says the Sun, preparity to issue a special set of stamps for Cuba and the designs have been approved by the postmaster-general. The issue will consist of one, two three, five and ten cent stamps, one-cent, or one-centavo stamp, b word Ciba across the top, with a "I" in each of the lower corners. In the center is a picture of the statue of Columbus in the courtyard of the palace of the cap-Some of his oldest friends were never supprised if he did not recognize them. Mr. Sherman had met Mr. Osborne many times, but did not remember him. When his identity was fully established Mr. Osborne expedited, as deligately as possible, that the president was considering his cabinet and desired to know whether Mr. Sherman night be recognized as a result of the lower corners. In the center is a picture of the statue of Columbus in the courty art of the palace of the capture of the palace of the capture of the palace of the capture. There are two designs for Cuba across the top, with a plantation scene in the center and "two centavos" to be provided as a result of the lower corners. In the center is a picture of the statue of Columbus in the courty art of the palace of the capture of the statue of columbus in the courty art of the palace of the capture of the statue of columbus in the courty art of the palace of the capture of the statue of columbus in the courty art of the palace of the capture of the palace of the capture of the palace of the capture of the palace of the palace of the capture of the palace of the capture of the palace of the palac Mr. Sherman might be regarded as a nos- at the bottom. The other has the plantae choice in case matters shaped them, ces so that his appointment was ad-tible. He explained explicitly that Le figure 2 underneath and centavos at the in the whole situation. Here, for example, is just one instance: "Assistant reached a point where he cauld invite any red. The three-cent stamp has the word secretary of War Meiklejohn," says a dispatch from Washington, "has received an official report from the customs service at Hayans. In a commertation of the customs service at Hayans. In a commercial flag of the commercial flag o f being mentioned in connection with so the figure is the figure 2, and at the bocontavos." On the 10-cent stamp is de-picted a farming scone in Cuba. A Cubar his after amazement he was compelled to again introduce himself and explain to Mr. Sherman who he was and what he had come for. The venerable statesmen did not remember anything about the conversation held only twelve hours previous. The whole subject was gone over again, however, and Mr. Sherman again, however, and Mr. Sherman again. the stamps printed at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, Washington, and their cost charged against the Cuban rev

> The project to establish a professorship of the Welsh language at Marietta col-lege is meeting with encouragemen iege is meeting with encourse throughout the country. The Wes "is he so bad as that?" inquired the throughout the country. The Welsh citizens of Boston have pledged \$2,000 to t-elect. ward the endowment. In New York replied Oshorne, and he related \$10,000 has been pledged, and in Pennsyl-"If that is the situation," remarked the president-elect, "if Uncle John is as bad as that we had better not crowd him."
>
> Although be head by a few or work of the president of resented in the endowment. The Welst residents of Cleveland, Columbus an other cities are also preparing to act in the matter. The new professorship is to be known as the Cambrian professorship. and the amount of endowment it is pr posed to secure for it is \$50,000. All lovers of the old Cymric land and its lar guage are rejoiced at the success that has so far attended the movement, and it is believed the new department will be in operation with the next college year. Itica Herald.

It is announced in a City of Mexico dis patch that Professor Angelo Hellprin, of the Philadelphia Academy of National Sciences has completed his calculations of the heights of the five principal vol-canic mountain peaks in Mexico. The results of his measurements are as fol-lows: Orizaba, as measured by the Defeand few scruoles, and the most desirable class of employes are unwilling to henest system conducted impartially perance in drugs is becoming more composed and above board, and because they beand above board, and because they beand above board, and because they beand it may possibly outstrip the cross tables, 18,206 feet; Popocatepett, 17,523

JUST FOR FUN.

A True Briton. In the April Scribner's Senator Hoar At a guard-mounting parade of one of her majesty's line regiments stationed at Richmond barracks, Dublin, the officer inspecting noticed that one man did not have the backs of his boots polished up

I to the regulation brightness. "What do you mean by appearing on parade in dirty boots?" he sternly asked

the delinquent. Tommy looked down in innocent sur-prise at his tres. "Look behind!" cried the officer. "A true British soldier never looks be-hind him," was the prempt reply.

Needless to say, Tommy was let off that time.-Leadon Times. An Easy Diagnosis.

'My wife's got a cold again, Doctor," he Like a man who for grievance has cause, Despite all my protests, she would go dast night— To the ball in a dress made of gauge,"

Though the dector tried hard to look grave, on his face Was a smile not so hard to detect As he answered: "That settles the matter

It's a plain case of gauge and effect."

-Buffalo Courier.

Law in Chicago.

"I notice that a Chicago judge has de-cided that a department store has a right 'Next thing, I st pose, he'll hand down n decision to the effect that a butcher can sell shoestrings."-Cleveland Plain Dealer,

Then and Now.

"Yes, they all prophesiod a brilliant fu-ture for him. When he was only I years old he used to speak pieces at Sunday school entertainments and hold the audi-ence spellbound." 'And now-

"Oh, he married, and now he doesn't even speak to his wife!"-Cleveland

A Ready Explanation.

Customer-My dear sir, your marbles, bisques and bronzes are not well selected. You have only standing postures.

Jeweler—Certainly, sir. My figures never
lie.—The Jeweler's Weekly.

Force of Habit. "Have you no mercy?" she shricked. "No," blased the villatious drug clerk 'but," he murmured absent-mindedly

have something just as good,"-Nev York Journal. Bryant Revised.

he melancholy days are come The saddest ever yet. When we put our overcoats in bock Our summer suits to get.

-New York Journal.

Riotous Proceedings. Superintendent-The necktie department will have to be moved further away from

Manager-Why? Superintendent-The spring styles make much noise that the corks can't work.

Unparalleled Economy.

"I do think," said Mrs. Dukane, 'that Miss Oakland carries her economical ideas to an unwarranted extreme." "In what particular?" asked Mrs. Gas-

"She always buys her valentines on the 15th of February, when the dealers will ll them for almost nothing rather th put them away, and then she keeps them and sends them the following year."-Pittsburg Chronicle-Telegraph.

LARGEST ASSORTMENT OF

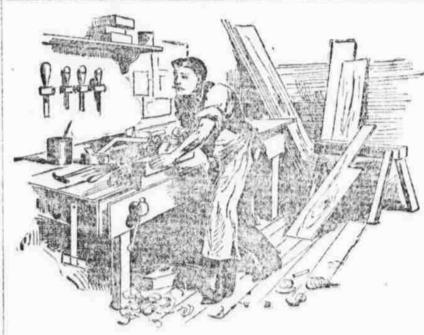
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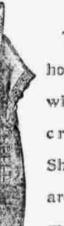
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