the Scranton Tribune

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ANTERED AT THE POSTOPPICE AT SCEANTON, PA₁₁ AN SECOND-CLASS MAIL MATTER. SCRANTON, APRIL 11, 1899.

Upon no ground of party regularity can the Republican absentees from last night's joint meeting of councils excuse their conduct. Mr. Vesburg is the undisputed nominee of the Republican caucus, the Republicans have a major-

An Elequent Justification.

ity and he should be elected.

The response of the administration to the hisses of the Boston anti-imperialists may be read in and between the lines of the speech of the postmaster general delivered at Chicago last night and printed in another column. The president does not assume to tell the people what they shall do with the Philippines. That is for them to decide. His duty ends with the enforcement of law and order and the preservation of public rights by military government pending the receipt of further instructions from cou-

The administration holds that it has thus far acted logically and in the only manner left open to it by duty and honor. The necessities of war forced Dewey to destroy the Spanish fleet which was the last prop to Spanish authority in the Philippines. The necessities of our international obligations forced the occupation of Manila by American troops pending the conclusion of a treaty of peace; otherwise foreign governments could have held the United States responsible in damages for the destruction by native looters of foreign property at Manila, The necessities of peace forced the taking over of the islands as an alternative to their return to helpless Spain, to their forcible partitioning among the stronger powers or to their surrender to internal anarchy and chaos, No one has successfully disputed these propositions. No one has shown how without cowardice or bad faith we could have done otherwise than we

The attack of the insurgent natives ever deplorable, had to be met and the only way to meet it was to put the insurrection down. Aguinaldo, by that Geronimo or Sitting Bull. The responsibility being our's by the laws of nations and the necessity of self defense being supreme and incontestable, the war now in progress needs no further justification and those who claim that it could have been averted simply express an opinion for which there is neither proof nor plausible in-

But the postmaster general goes furher than to set forth the administraion's justification for steps already laken. He affirms boldly his belief that what has been done has been righteously done and that the work hus begun should be carried through o its logical conclusion, until Amerian energy, resource and intelligence shall have converted those tropical islands into fair and shining centers of civilization, creditable alike to trustees and to wards. On this issue he is willing to go before the people, to stand or fall by their meditated vote.

Admiral Dewey is fortunate in this era of president-makers to have many miles of deep sea between him and ambitious political promoters. When an offise seeks the man at such a long range it is not liable to cause the unwilling subject any more annoyance,

Wanted-A Man.

The attention of the people of Pennsylvania is called to the condition of affairs indicated in the following extract from a news letter sent out from Harrisburg under date of April 9: only eleven days off, the legislature has not sent a single revenue bill to the governor. The numerous revenue measures passed by the house are still in the senate finance committee. The private charities will suffer if some of the revenue bills are not enacted into laws. Governor Stone nas repeatedly said that he will not and semi-state institutions and the the capitol."

nant sorrow outside of Harrisburg panies. and the narrow circle of expectant

money from the state or from the com- to the navy bill limiting the price. taken thus far which was not the in-

much less to keep pace with the deserving of accommodation and care,

so by public sentiment. Harrisburg who doesn't know that the and ability that they would be willing mdeniable circumstances. Where to regardless of the immediate political permitted them to have their way, notonsequences?

which gives the commonwealth in ships will have to be suspended." criminal trials an overwhelming advantage in the right of peremptory challenges was clearly shown yesterday in the selection of the jury which is trying Senator Quay. If it had been the prosecution's aim to pack the jury the law governing its right to challenge could hardly have been better adapted to that purpose.

Practical Christianity. At a time when too many religious

very near to being ideal. The dedication yesterday of the new parish house of St. Luke's congregation, the splendid memorial erected by the wise beneficence of Mary Throop Phelps, supplies a fitting opportunity for public recognition of these progressive and admirable ministrations. Though there may be room for differences of judgment and opinion with respect to doctrine there is none in reference to the usefulness of the purposes to which this parish building will hereafter be devoted. It will be in very truth a home for the helpless, the poor and the unfortunate; a home to inculcate the spirit of thrift, to encourage the despondent and to make the community feel and know that Christianity is more upon our military police force, how- than forms and ceremonies and fine

words uttered from the lips outward. The congratulations of the people are due to all who have in any way conattack, placed himself on a par with tributed to the generous sentiment that called this parish home into being, but more especially are thanks due to St. Luke's indefatigable and devoted rector, Rev. Rogers Israel, and to his efficient assistants, who give to the beautiful building the directing spirit which, under Providence, makes it a power for good.

There is a suspicion that the tales regarding the failure of the wheat crop may have been invented for the purpose of enticing the few remaining wary lambs of Wall street into the shearing pen.

That Armor Plate Muddle.

Specifications have been prepared by the navy department for the 24,000 tons of armor plate needed in the construction of the six new-battleships authorized by the Fifty-fifth congress but inasmuch as the authorized price for the armor for three of the ships is only \$300 per ton it is said that no bids will | care. be sent in as the armor plate manufacturers contend that they cannot produce the commodity for so low a price.

The senators responsible for the cut in the authorized price claim that \$400 a ton is too much to pay for armor plate and that if the United States is going to use much plate it had better build a factory of its own. With reference to this proposition the ordnance officers of the pavy, who have investigated the subject thoroughly, are in addition to the large initial cost of a government armor plate plant it would be several years before the "With the date of final adjournment machinery could be made and placed in working order, and by that time somebody might invent some improvescience of shipbuilding and gunnery has been so radical and rapid within the last ten years that ships in our navy which were in advance of anything that the world had previously sign away a single cent in advance of thought of at the time they were the state revenues. The bills for state | launched are now practically old-fashioned. The officials think that by the general appropriation bill aggregate time the armor plant was completed the estimated revenues for the next | we would want a new one built on diftwo years. Unless more revenue is ferent designs, and that the \$3,000,000 or raised there will be nothing left for \$4,000,000 it would cost would be practhe private charities and to complete tically wasted. Furthermore, they believe it would be an injustice of the Failure to complete the capitoi grossest kind for the government to go would not necessarily generate poig- into competition with the private com-

"Some years ago," writes W. E. Curcontractors, but the curtailment of tis in the Chicago Record, "at the urgstate aid to hospitals and asylums is a ent solicitation of the naval officials, prospect not to be contemplated with the Carnegie and Bethlehem companies complaceny. We do not agree with erected splendid plants at a cost of those who argue that the way out of several million dollars each, in order the present perplexing revenue hole to supply armor for our battleships. It is to enter upon a widespread scheme | was an act of patriotism, because the of increased taxation. The state of demand for armor is limited, and con-Pennsylvania is taxing its cititens at fined exclusively to the United States the present time quiet enough. The and other governments, and the risk state needs first of all to cut down he was very great because of the rapid unnecessary expenses and then it change in methods. In order to pay a needs to get down to common sense reasonable profit upon the investment principles in its allotment of the school and provide a sinking fund to reimburse themselves for the cost of the The state of Pennsylvania gives to plant before it became obsolete, these education more money than it can af- companies fixed a price which, accordford to give in view of the just claims | ing to the experts, was just and fair of other proper objects of state aid. to the government as well as to them-It gives nearly \$2,000,000 more a year selves, and it is less than other governto its public schools than the state ments are paying them and European next to it in the list. New York, and manufacturers for the same material. it is not getting from this lavish and William E. Chandler, who used to be extravagant placing of its funds the secretary of the navy, entertains a bitworth of its mistaken generosity. We ter grudge against these manufacturare informed that there are senool dis- ers for some reason, and Senator Tilltricts in the state which receive from man, of South Carolina, and Senator the state for educational purposes Butler, of North Carolina, who do not more money than they expend; the know any more about the manufacture difference it put out at interest and of armor than a sparrow knows of the districts pocket the interest. This finance, took it into their heads that condition of things, at a time when the Carnegies and the Bethlehem peohospitals, asylums and other necessary ple were making too much money. humane institutions cannot get enough | They therefore secured an amendment

munities to keep up current expenses, There are no three men in congress more unfit to judge of such matters. growth in the number of unfortunates | No manufacturer of iron or steel or anything else would give two cents for is an outrage and it needs to be called the opinion of either of them on any matter of business, and yet they have There probably isn't a legislator in such confidence in their own wisdom school fund is too large, under these to undertake the management of the celestial system with the same assurthe leader with the nerve to advocate ance that they discussed the cost of what is just and right in this mat'er, armor plate. The rules of the senate withstanding the appeals and remonstrances of the officers of the navy, and The injustice of the old principle as a consequence the building of battle-

It is to be hoped that during the time thus wasted we shall not have sudden need of additional bettleships, for if we should, the matter of \$50 or \$100 a ton the scale. What we should save at the spigot would then be wasted in short order at the bunghole and the nation would be lucky to get out of a naval scrape at ten times the cost of armor denominations are dissipating their en- plate at \$100 a ton. It is this small and ergies in disputing over the subtleties niggardly spirit on the part of certain ended in the only agreement which of the so-called higher criticism or are congressmen which forced the governgoing about with theological or sec- ment a year ago to buy up old merturian chips on their shoulders, seek- chant ships at fancy prices in the franing whom they may devour, it is due the attempt to improvise a navy capable to the Protestant Episcopal church in of combating the navy of Spain. Our and altogether flawless. Then we were America to may that it has devoted good ships fortunately were sufficient debating whether we should take the very little time to this kind of contro- to take care of Spain's poor ones, but Philippines, and it came to be clear versy and very much time to the insti- if our antagonist had been Russia or tution and development of practical Germany or France we might have had charities and works of broad benevo- to sing a different tune. It is all right to hold out against manifest over-In our own community it has carried charges, but when a fair price is quoted handing over to any other power. If them in new wrappers-new goods, practical religion into the every day the policy of true economy in matters there were doubts, they have vanished, lives of a multitude of people repre- of this character is to accept it and and today the question is not whether senting all classes and stations; and push the work of naval construction so its organization of parish work comes as to be prepared as soon as possible for every untoward contingency.

> If Thomas Jefferson could return and get within hearing of some of the excited demonstrators of his principles he would probably take to the

The original Dewey-for-president man has received a frost.

American Duty Will Never Be Shirken.

From an Address Delivered at Chicago Last Night by Postmaster General Chartes Emory Smith. HE WAR of the past year has been full of revelations of noble-

ness as well as success. Never before did a triumphant nation end the living soldiers of its vanuished foe back to their homes at its heroic dead, even its unidentified desea to be buried on their own soil. The scene at Arlington last Thursday, on and Polivars or degraded the descendthe national capital, was as unpreceand waiting caskets, each draped with the American flag. There were 10,000 mourners, for all the people were mourners, watching with reverent mien under the bright sunlight. There were the president and his asprayer was said; the requiem was side in the great national cemetery,

This is a suggestive hour. It links the past, the present and the future. Yesterday was the 34th anniversary of Appointation. Tomorrow will be the Within ten days will come the anniversary of the declaration of war. mighty questions, that we can hardly realize it is not yet a twelve month thundering the quiet order of Dewey, ise in the East and a new giant among ment that would make it practically ed in the peaceful and wonderful den its own progress and in the progress of the world, it must enter upon wider sphere; and the inescapable duty of last year became the unsought but unavoidable means, under that national necessity

The obligations and the mandate of that national duty cannot be disputed. and elevating? Two weeks ago I stood under the sunny sky of Cuba. I saw some of the villages of palm-thatched huts where. under the cruel order of concentration, thousands of helpless Cubans were herded, like sheep for the slaughter, mination. Two hundred thousand hudeath. If our government had not interferred when it did, half a million been on our skirts. When the presi-England and recast the map of the menia found Europe divided and balanced with jealousies, and she stood that awful massacre. But the great Republic could not remain silent or impotent with the hideous wrongs of uba at our own doors. We should have been false to humanity and recreant to civilization had we failed to stretch forth our saving arm. The cool, dispassionate verdict of history will pronounce it the most obligatory and the most righteous of wars, as it was the most faultless in its direc-tion and the most astonishing and overwhelming in its success.

Granted the war, where could we have stopped short of where we now stand? Point who can to a single step

evitable sequence, the irresistible conclusion of the first decision? Less or different we might have done and plunged into mistake and disaster. More we might have done and violated feith and produced divisions. But review the events of the year in the light of after-wisdom and tell me. who can, what movement of war or reason, duty and safety dictated. There have been doubters and opponwe have done more or less in Cuba? Who criticizes the disposition of Porto Rico? Where could we have halted in the Philippines?

As we have gone on conclusions come, doubts have disappeared, re- that we of America who are "The heirs suits have vindicated, and discussion has advanced new questions. A year ngo we were discussing war, and events brought an undivided front. Nine months ago, so swift and unerring were the blows, we were discussin the price of a few thousand tons of ing the cessation of hostilities, and reaches where it began, and the Occiarmor plate would be a small item in the protocol as it came from the hands the president was recognized as free flag of the great Republic. skillfully settling the provisional terms and preserving the safeguards and possibilities. Six months ago we were discussing the final conditions of peace, and the negotiations of Paris, strenuous, resolute and masterful, meant real peace. Three months ago not only did its ratification remove it from the arena of contention, but it is now accepted as wise, statesmanlike that there was no other course-no joint or divided sovereignty, no turning back to Spain, no leaving as a derelict on the ocean currents, no in-dependence which means anarchy, no we should have taken the Philippines. for no man now ventures to dispute it, but what shall we do with them?

That question the American people will answer, and it may well be that as the discussion goes on and events move forward the doubts and uncertainties will clear up, as they have cleared up in every preceding chapter of the advancing story. The people will make answer, and they will answer with full regard for the rights and welfare of the Filipinos. They will answer also with a full sense of their own duty and obligations. And they will answer without branding themselves as incapable of playing their appropriate part in the world's broad arena and as unequal to the demands of progress and civilization. They do not share the unworthy sentiment that an individual or a nation has the right to run away from a perplexing or a burdensome duty by proclaiming that it hasn't character or ability enough to perform it.

Nor are they deceived by any hollow own cost. Never before did a nation | fiction or any irrelevant maxim. They undertake to bring all of its own are not foolish enough to suppose that a single day has either lifted the vicfenders, back from fields beyond the tims of four hundred years of oppression and barbarism into Washingtons picturesque heights overlooking acts of the real Washington and his compeers into reproductions of George dented as it was impressive. There the Third and Lord North. They unwere the serried lines of open graves | derstand that the principles of the Declaration of Independence are abstract truths, and that they are also practical fruits to be reached by practical means. They did not ask the consent of the Cubans to save them from starvation, but they will put sociates standing in the solemn pres- the Cubans in the way of having a ence with uncovered heads. The government based on their consent. They do not ask the consent of the sounded; the last salute was fired, and | Filipinos to save them from chaos the fallen heroes of the nation, equal- but they will teach and guide and ly of the North and the South, the raise the Filipinos to a point where first thus jointly honored since the they will consent to their own best incivil war, were laid to rest side by terests, and where they will have the largest measure of self government to be cherished with a nation's devoted for which they shall show themselves qualified.

It is not strange that a people shut up for centuries in the darkness of tyranny and ignorance should falter. dazed and uncertain, when they sudfirst anniversary of the president's dealy step out into the fullness of memorable message on Cuba, which light and liberty. It is not strange opened a new chapter of history, that they should be misled and misguided for the hour and seek to smite the hand that rescues them. This is That war was so marvelous in its tri- an old experience, and it makes an umphs and so swift in its momentous unpleasant necessity. There must be and far reaching in its conclusions, peace before there can be rebuilding. we have lived so fast and so much. But in the name of my countrymen I unanimously hostile. They assert that we have entered upon such new and repei the calumny that American rule and American purpose are aggressive or scheming or despotic. We went to since the opening gun of the conflict. the Philippines under the necessity of war, but we stay because we are resignalled a new star of hope and prom- sponsible to mankind for peace and order and security. We have taken the world powers. Appointtox usher- the foundling of nations on our doorstep and we cannot heartlessly thrust worthless. The development of the velopment of thirty years which it away. There may be need of heroic brought the nation to a point where, treatment, but better a little heroic treatment at the outset than anarchy and relf-destruction. We are there with healing and blessing. there with the Bible and civilization. We are there with the promise of an overruling Providence, of realizing peace and progress, of trade and commerce, of enlightenment and prosperity, and does any man doubt that American influence will be beneficial

The president holds these islands in trust for the American people until they can determine the future. will give them good government. He has sent, and will send the best men, to die of disease and starvation. It and there are Americans as capable of was a deliberate holocaust of exter- governing a distant and oriental people as the English or the Dutch. He will man beings were literally starved to inspire confidence and encourage the development of their resources. will not hold them as spolls. Nor is men, women and children would have there anything in the imaginary diffiperished and their blood would have culties of the objectors. Not the expense, swollen in the eye of fancy to dent summoned Spain to withdraw, hundreds of millions, for the figures he left open the pathway of peace thus far make it reasonably clear that with instice. But when Spain blindly the revenues of all the islands, East refused, a command greater than and West, adjusted and administered national case, a duty higher than any for their own welfare and not for any material interests, a voice from God exploitation, will fairly pay the cost of and from man left no course but to their governments. Not the army, picenforce the withdrawal and rescuo tured at hundreds of thousands, for it a doomed people. The atrocities of has been fixed at the standard of peace Bulgaria roused the eloquent voice of and it is enough. Not the navy, for no Gladstone, stirred the stout heart of greater navy will be required than would be needed in any event to pro-Falkans. The later horrors of Ar- tect our expanding commercial inter-Not any dangerous complicaests. tions, for our rights are respected by dumb and palsied in the presence of the world and we shall not invade the rights of others.

> For one I am content to go to the progressive and patriotic American

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