

The Scranton Tribune

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SCRANTON, APRIL 21, 1899.

Scranton's fire department deserves to be paid for its splendid work. The city has long dead-head in this matter more than long enough.

A Political Conspiracy.

It is as plain as a pike-staff to every open-minded citizen who has studied the Quacy case that this case was planned for political purposes solely. Take whatever view one may of the question of the defendant's innocence or guilt upon the charge of conspiracy to misuse the deposited funds of the commonwealth, the conclusion is irresistible that there was in this case another conspiracy originating in the mind of James Gay Gordon at a time when he was a judge on the bench; a conspiracy to use the information pertaining to be detrimental to Senator Quacy's primary duty as a legislator, to expedite the vindication of justice but instead to further a personal ambition. We may not call this blackmailing because it did not take the form of an attempt to extort money; but it was a political conspiracy, a breathing together for the meditated purpose of effecting factional and vindictive ends, in the execution of which public opinion was first artfully worked up to a frame of mind rendering difficult if not wholly impossible a calm and judicial weighing of the facts.

To this end, before Gordon, Wanamaker, Martin, Guffey and the other persons made their way to Gordon's parlour, they were in possession of the plan of ambush such newspapers as could be controlled by them prepared the way and a speaking campaign by Wanamaker and benches added fuel to the flames. At the proper time, when public passions were aroused to a pitch forbidding judicial temper in the jury box the alleged information was laid before a vindictive district attorney freshly aching for a chance to be revenged upon Quacy. The trap was sprung just before the November elections and it has been kept in spasmodic operation ever since, but although the senatorial election has been deferred it is by no means certain that Quacy will not succeed himself. If he shall carry his case directly to the people, appealing to their never-failing sense of fair play, it is safe to predict that he will emerge triumphant, after all, over all, in spite of all.

The moment the senatorial struggle at Harrisburg was over the commonwealth's case against Quacy closed with a dull thud. It had already accomplished its principal purpose.

The Legislature of 1899.

There is this much to be said for the legislature which yesterday closed its session. It passed little, if any, vicious legislation. There were no state, no city, no county, no township investigations, no transparent "jobs." The record made as to work done was clear. The worst thing that can be said of the session is that it did not do several things which it should have done. Its evasion of duty in the matter of revenue legislation is censurable and its defeat of ballot reform disreputable. But it is no small thing to be able to say of a Pennsylvania legislature that its affirmative achievement is spotless.

The scandal developed by the factional clash over the senatorship is a natural fruit of the contentions politics within party lines with which the commonwealth has recently been afflicted. Much of the evidence elicited in the factional bribery inquiry was doubtless manufactured for a purpose and will fall to withstand the search-light of a regular court of justice. But if it should prove that there has been bribery and corrupt solicitation it will be by no means a novelty in factional maneuvering. Two years ago it will be recalled that the revelations came from the other side. It is human nature to try to balance accounts, an adage from the operation of which the "merchants" are not exempt. The bribery charges should, however, be pushed to a conclusion. In no other way than by complete exposure and drastic punishment can this noxious feature of political strife be minimized or eliminated.

A word of appreciation is due to the presiding officer of the house during the session just closed. Speaker Farr was a storm center and the contentions elements surged around him madly, some of them doing their level best to discredit him by false accusation and deceitful representation. He kept both his equisopie and his character. He was vindicated in every ruling that he made and as soon as the excited passions subsided his factional opponents will be the first to admit as much.

The moral of recent occurrences is that it pays to keep one's property well insured.

Hope for the Horse.

The era of good times seems to have no changes in the various branches of trade than those which have been experienced by the dealer in horse flesh. And in most instances the buyer can scarcely be brought to realize the change that has been wrought in the conditions of a year ago. At the beginning of the Spanish-American war an excellent horse could be purchased for from fifty to sixty dollars and the animals were to a certain extent a drug on the market at that price. The passing of the laded steed of the street railroad and general depression of business which diminished the demand for draught or pleasure horses made the prospects indeed gloomy for the breeder. The opening of the Cuban campaign, which created a demand for a large number of horses, was accompanied by an unexpected call from Eu-

ropean markets which caused a boom in horseflesh. The export trade has not decreased since the close of the war and the horse-raising industry appears to be again on a firm basis. This is made more apparent by the prices that the animals bring at private and auction sales. A horse that could not be sold for fifty dollars a year ago will now readily bring from one hundred to one hundred and twenty-five dollars. From present indications the noble equine seems destined to hold his own in spite of the bicycle, trolley car and automobile.

General Henry in his work as military governor of Porto Rico has not had the benefit of much newspaper boomerang, but he has done that work faithfully and well and he has added another splendid testimony to the administrative efficiency of the officers of our army and navy. The whole country is his debtor.

Thomas B. Reed.

The reputation of Thomas B. Reed extends throughout the civilized world, being high wherever there is use of parliamentary law. During a good deal more than half of the twenty years of his service in congress he has been easily the dominant figure among its membership; yet it is a singular fact that his name is directly connected in the public mind with no single constructive act of statesmanship, and is known only to the celebrated rule of quorum counting which revolutionized the house's method of doing business.

This rule held that a member visible to the speaker should be counted as present even though he failed to respond at roll call. It was intended to prevent the Democratic minority from obstructing legislation by refusing to answer their names. Those members absent without leave could be brought into the house by the sergeant-at-arms and, once in, they were counted to make a quorum, whether they liked it or not. In this way the house ceased to be a filibustering stronghold and became a working assembly, with the majority at all times able to carry out its policy. The Democrats made a furious outcry when Mr. Reed proclaimed this rule. For years he was nicknamed a czar and made the target for all kinds of ridicule and abuse; but he was as immovable in his position as the big rock of Gibraltar, and the minority soon gave up the unequal struggle and accepted the inevitable. Speaker Reed's vindication came when, in the Democratic Fifty-third congress Speaker Crisp adopted the Reed rule and enforced them precisely as Reed would have done.

As speaker Thomas B. Reed has virtually controlled the actions of the house, bending it to his strong will whenever he liked. The power exercised by Reed has been greater than that of many absolute monarchs but his exercise has been justified by the fact that it has invariably thwarted crookedness and folly and expedited important and wholesome public business. In the hands of a dishonest or an ignorant man it would have led to scandal or inefficiency, but Reed has been as honest as he was brave and able. His subtraction from congress will take from public life a foremost personality; but the honor which he has won and worn is ample for any man and it is natural that having always been a poor man he should now wish to turn his great talents to the honorable acquisition of an adequate competence for his family.

General Gomez's recognition of the need of a long-continued American protectorate over Cuba before that unhappy island can stand alone is another proof that the old Dominican is nobody's fool.

School Influence.

The Rochester Democrat and Chronicle presents some opinions upon a subject of widespread interest which are so sound and timely that we make bold to adopt them as our own. "No school or kindergarten," that excellent paper says, "can take the place of a good home. The best there is of instruction, of association, of influence and inspiration for a child is to be found in the ideal home. Many American children are reared in such an environment. They are sent to the kindergartens and schools, not to get them out of the way of their parents or to put them under better influences than they have at home, but for supplementary instruction and training. Unfortunately all homes are not of this ideal character. In our large cities there are thousands of little children whose only opportunities for acquiring knowledge and good manners will be found in the kindergartens and primary departments of the public school system. If the atmosphere of those institutions is tainted with vulgarity and ill-breeding, then their only chance of becoming pure-minded, clean thinking, good-mannered men and women will be lost to them.

"In Chicago, kindergartens were first established in parts of the city where many small children, owing to the occupations or character and habits of their parents, knew nothing of good home influence and training. Their play ground was the streets with all the vicious and debasing influences generally found in such quarters in our large cities. In a recent report of the Chicago board of education the following regarding the effects of kindergarten influence upon the children of these neighborhoods appears. It says: 'At first many children are combative, resentful, rude, selfish, greedy and show the perverting, demoralizing, demoralizing influences common to the undisciplined child. A few months' training in a good kindergarten makes these same children neat, obedient, self-helpful, thoughtful and helpful to others; disciplines them unconsciously to right thought and action and lays the foundations for the development of true men and women.'

"An institution or system which bears such fruits among the classes of children described above cannot be too highly commended or carefully nurtured by society and the state. Neither the kindergarten nor the higher grades of schools should be regarded as a substitute for the home or the church, but that more and ought to work in harmony with both in refining and pol-

ing as well as enlightening the minds and hearts of the children. Good citizenship implies good manners as well as disciplined and educated minds. By this we do not mean simply the little details of manners such as eating with a fork instead of a knife or taking off the hat to a lady, but that open-minded and courteous attitude towards society, the spirit of courtesy, of dignity, of self-respect, of neatness, of thoughtfulness regarding the rights of others, of deference to authority, in short the characteristics of the true gentleman and the true lady as differentiated from the spurious, varnished characters who sometimes masquerade with those titles.

"A school whose spirit and teachings are not adapted for turning out such men and women as that is a failure. The school whose pupils are distinguished for their rudeness, their insolence to superiors and persons older than themselves, their coarseness of manners and slanginess of speech, needs a new set of teachers or ought to be abolished. Deplore it as we may, in the cases of thousands of children the kindergartens and the higher grade schools take the place of home in respect of manners as well as in respect of the acquisition of knowledge. They should, therefore, so far as possible, cover the entire life of the children in its relations to society and the state."

"There is no excuse for the neglectful parent. The guilt of such is dark beyond comparison. But it is a common guilt and the schools must so far as they can, supply parental deficiencies. There is much greater need of character development in the public schools than there is of mental polishing, considered alone.

Among the alleged transactions of the gang of counterfeiters unearthed at Lancaster the other day none seems more astounding than the statement that the accused men had made and floated \$100,000 worth of cigar stamps during their transactions in Lancaster. Owing to the manner in which the accounts of tobacco dealers are kept by internal revenue officials such a proceeding would be next to an impossibility if the revenue officers exercised ordinary care in attending to business. The deputy internal revenue collectors at Lancaster are not in a position to be envied at present.

St. John's Gospel as a Divine Ode.

Editor of the Tribune.

Sir: Last week in sending you a communication on Lincoln as a writer of good stories, Anglo-Saxons as compared with Shakespeare and the Bible, I referred to the introduction of St. John's gospel as a sublime ode on the beginning of things in heaven and in earth. But what is meant by such a statement? For to the ordinary reader the introduction of St. John's gospel does not appear to be such an ode at all. It is only a piece of prose of the same form and character as the rest of the gospel. But this is not at all the case. It looks like ordinary prose because it is so printed. Underlying it, however, is a very same Hebrew parallelism which marks Hebrew poetry wherever it is found. This does not mean it has those ordinary characteristics of English poetry—rhyme and metre—which we are accustomed to think of as the essentials of our poetic forms. It simply means that it has the highest characteristics of all world poetry, sublimity of thought, a rhythmic flow of language and a power of diction expressed under the customary form of the poetry of the people to which the writer belonged, that is, the Hebrew.

Further than this, it is a fact well known to all close students of the Bible that St. John's introduction is an exact counterpart of the introduction to the first book of the Bible, called Genesis, at very little known, however, that the latter, also, is an ode, and can easily be arranged in the same way, according to the same poetic principles. I will now give you St. John's introduction, arranged as suggested, and I will send you the introduction to the book of Genesis, that is, Genesis, I, 1-2-3, arranged according to the same principles.

Introduction to the Gospel of St. John. John I: 1-3.

In the beginning was the Word. The Word was with God. The Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God.

All things were made By Him. Without Him. Was nothing made that was made.

In Him was Life. The Life was the Light of men. The Light shined in the darkness. The darkness overcame it not.

There was a man sent from God. His name was John. He came for witness. To bear witness of the Light. That all men through Him might believe.

He was not the Light. He was sent to bear witness of the Light. That was the true Light. That lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

He was in the world. The world was made by Him. The world knew Him not. He came to His own. His own received Him not.

But as many as received Him. To them gave He power. To become the Sons of God. Even to them that believe on His Name.

These were born, not of blood. Nor of the will of the flesh. Nor of the will of man. But of God.

So the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us. And we beheld His glory. The glory as of the Only Begotten of the Father. Full of grace and truth.

"This is He of Whom I spoke," cried John. "He that cometh after me is preferred before me. For He was before me."

No man hath seen God at any time. The Only Begotten Son. Who is in the bosom of the Father. He hath made Him known.

By this arrangement, we find the introduction of St. John's Gospel naturally divides itself into three sections. The first is the introduction to the introduction, consists of three stanzas. The other two sections consist of four stanzas each. The first section consists of a strophe and antistrophe separated by an intermediate stanza. This is analogous to the method of the great master poets of ancient Greece. In the second section we find a strophe and antistrophe of seven lines each followed by a strophe and antistrophe of four lines each. In the third section we find four stanzas of four lines each following like those of the second section in the simplest strophic arrangement of the ancient Greek masters; that is, strophe, antistrophe, strophe, antistrophe.

This parallelism of lines, which has recently been called the lower parallelism, is also marked throughout this introduction. Take the second section, for instance. "There was a man sent from God," has its parallel in the following line, "His name was John." It is the same with the last two lines of that stanza, and the first two and the last two lines of the following stanza. Then take the second two stanzas of the second section. Here the lower parallelism is not that of line following line, such as the just cited, but of the first and fourth lines, the second and the third. Then there is another natural feature of such a Hebrew poetic arrangement. The lines that stand out to the left can be read without reading those set in to the right. So with the remaining lines. In other words, those lines set out to the left are parallel to each other, those to the right are parallel to each other.

We might further enlarge on this important subject. We might show how the understanding of the rules of Hebrew parallelism assists one very materially, not only to the correct understanding of the meaning of the great Hebrew poets, but also to the meaning of the prophets. For the prophets are not only to express their thoughts in the very same kind of Hebrew poetic forms. We might go still further. We might show how necessary it is to the correct interpretation of Scripture as a whole to be able to recognize the different literary character of its various parts (for it is continually changing in the style and manner of its speech), and to apply with well directed discrimination to the interpretation of them, those particular rules of literary criticism which naturally apply to them. For we must necessarily go very far astray in our attempt to get at the whole truth of God in Christ our Lord, if we do not recognize poetry as poetry, wherever we come across it in the book of books, but attempt to interpret it solely by the laws laid down in the ordinary rules of prose.

P. S. Ballentine. The Good Shepherd Rectory, Scranton, Pa., April 20.

REBELLION OF THE EAST.

From the New York Sun. Every day of fighting in the Philippines strengthens the tie that binds those islands to the United States. Every life of the American soldier lost there, every hardship and every sacrifice on the part of the faithful bearers of the Stars and Stripes fastens the Philippines more securely as part of the dominion of the United States.

The bigger the price exacted from us by the rebellious Filipinos for the peaceful possession of that country, the more our duty and the stronger its determination to make that possession peaceful. We will have peace in the Philippines under the American flag, and we will have it at any price. This is in accordance with human nature and the national traditions, and, considering the state of the world, it is likewise in accordance with political wisdom and necessity.

THE SILK INDUSTRY.

Rochester Democrat and Chronicle. The wonderful growth of the silk industry in the United States is shown by the statistical tables just published by the Silk Association of America for trade purposes. The total importations of manufactured silks in 1898 were valued at \$23,463,925, whereas the total importations of raw silk cocoons and the silk manufactured in the United States were valued at \$28,234,629. The value of the articles manufactured from the raw silk in this country is not published, but it must be immense. American manufactures are now making the best silks. The silk industry founded under protection, and has advanced immensely to the wealth of the country. Like the tin plate industry, the manufacture of silk grew up in defiance of the simple-minded, closet statesmen of the summer school.

PERPLEXING.

Rochester Democrat and Chronicle. Here are some of the latest combinations of Jeffersonianism, according to the authorities that declare themselves reliable: Free trade, free silver, anti-expansion. Free trade, gold, anti-expansion. Free trade, silver, expansion. Free trade, gold, expansion. Protection, with the remainder of the combinations duplicated. Who, out of all this, is going to construct a Jeffersonian platform on which the entire Democratic party can stand? Don't all speak at once.

AROUND A CIRCLE.

"As I understand it," said the heathen, "you propose to civilize me?" "Exactly so." "You mean to get me out of habits of idleness and teach me to work?" "That is the idea." "And then lead me to simplify my methods and invent things to make my work lighter?" "Yes." "And next I will become ambitious to get rich, so that I won't have to work at all?" "Naturally." "Well, what's the use of taking such a round-about way of getting just where I started? I don't have to work now."—Washington Star.

JUST FOR FUN.

Last Resort. The poor man had been looking all day for a job. "Disappointed again!" he exclaimed. "I am in despair. There is not a thing in the house to eat." "Ah, dear," said the faithful wife, "we have but one resource left. We must take in boarders."—Philadelphia Record.

Time Wasted.

"My wife never buys a hat, a gown or even a pair of gloves without first consulting me."

"Is that so? Well, old man, you wife's

a wonder. You ought to be able to save money." "I could, probably, if she didn't always go and get what she wanted just the same as if I had agreed to it."

Where Science Will Fail.

Some day the horseless carriage will go zipping here and there. And men, with graceful wings outspread, may travel through the air. Some day it may be possible for men to cross the sea. As easily as we may from here to Kansas. Some day you may have breakfast here and dinner in New York, Or dine in New Orleans and sup in London or in Cork. Some day these things may come to pass. But even then, at night, When baby gets the cramps and starts to yell with all its might, Poor, weary papa will be forced, in quieting the woe, To tramp the floor on foot just as he has to do it now.

Shattered Faith.

Mrs. Jenkins—Yes, I've decided to have a new physician. Dr. Pellets is evidently getting careless or else he is not a master of his profession. Mrs. Filibright—Why, I thought you had so much confidence in him? Mrs. Jenkins—I did until I went to see him yesterday, when he told me I would have to take cod-liver oil. There's nothing at all the matter with me and if he doesn't know it he ought to go into some other business.

A Chance to Find Out.

"Pa, what's a rabbit?" "You watch me the next time I come home late for dinner and try to say something that will tickle her. Then you'll see what a rabbit is."

Her Wants.

I need your smiles to cheer me. When clouds shut out the sky; I need your arms around me. When chilling blasts howl by; With you at hand to love me. When all is gloomy here. The cold days and the cloudy. Would cease to fret me, dear. I'll wed no fair-day lover. Who, when his smile is clear. Smiles pleasantly upon me. And holds me near and dear. But who, when clouds hang over. Sighs "Oh!" "Alas!" "Alack!" I want a man whose liver Is never out of whack. —All from the Chicago News.

REXFORD'S.

April 21. We may be mistaken, but we believe we have the most complete line of Belt and Collar Buckles in Scranton; we know we have the newest. Sterling silver in French grey and rose gold finishes. At our way of pricing they are not expensive.

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The leading things are black and blue grounds, with neat designs in white, heliotrope, blue, etc. Black and blue grounds with Persian effects, also in white grounds, with delicate printing of heliotrope, new blue, etc. Our prices are 75c, \$1.00 and \$1.25.

Wash silks, that wash and retain their lustre, and colors are shown in a large variety of choice patterns. Prices range from 45c to 75c.

Elegant line of Japanese Wash Silks and Summer Silks, in plaids, corded checks and stripes. Fast colors and a large selection. Best goods made Only 45c.

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