

The Scranton Tribune

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When space will permit, The Tribune is always glad to print short letters from its friends bearing on current topics, but its policy is that these must be signed, for publication, by the writer's real name.

TWELVE PAGES.

SCRANTON, JULY 22, 1899.

Secretary Alger appears to have been very discourteous in not sending his resignation direct to the New York yellow journals.

A Need and the Remedy.

The other excluding private patients from the Moses Taylor hospital will be a disappointment to many who have reckoned upon its advantages in case of need. The management cannot be blamed, though, for carrying out the spirit or intent of the donor.

Hospital advantages have become almost a necessary accessory to modern surgery and the query naturally comes how will the public obtain these needed benefits?

A study of the report of the Moses Taylor hospital would indicate that it has averaged all the time during the past year ten or fifteen private patients. Naturally the Lackawanna hospital with its three or four private rooms now usually spoken for weeks in advance and its notoriously overcrowded wards cannot supply this increased demand.

The mistake which Ingersoll made in adopting the role of the professional skeptic. Had his been a profound or an intense nature, this role would have been impossible.

It would seem that here is a grand opportunity for some one to build for himself a lasting monument and at the same time confer untold blessings upon the suffering women and children of Scranton.

Admiral Dewey kept away from Turkey in order to escape the sultan's medal for bravery known as the Order of the Medjidie.

It is pleasant to read that prominent Southern men have already suggested General Fitzhugh Lee for secretary of war.

Criminal Negligence.

The lax methods of councils pointed out by Mr. Keller are to blame for most of the municipal ills which plague this city. Carelessness in councils allowed the streets to go to pieces; it permitted the equipment of the fire department to become criminally inadequate to the needs of the service.

We should like to add that the prospects for improvement are bright. But we cannot without stating an untruth. Maybe the time will come when public sentiment, now so easy going, will organize to clean out these abuses.

The prophecies of St. Swithin's day have thus far been fulfilled in rather homeopathic doses.

Senator Hoar's Successor.

Replying to a suggestion that he become a candidate for United States Senator in opposition to Senator Hoar, General William F. Draper, now ambassador, to Italy, says: "My aspirations for the near future certainly are not in the direction of the Senate, and, in any event, I should not think of being a candidate against Senator Hoar."

is my opinion that he will be returned to the Senate as long as he cares to serve there. The fact that differences of opinion may exist respecting his attitude on the Philippine question does not affect the high respect and esteem in which he is held by all parties, and I do not believe those differences will have any effect so far as opposition to his re-nomination, when his term expires, is concerned.

General Draper's right to regulate his own aspirations are incontrovertible; and his prophecy as to Senator Hoar's future may prove true. But his argument that because the present senator from Massachusetts is personally held in high respect and esteem he should be re-elected regardless of his attitude on public questions is mischievous.

This is a representative government and issues are more important than individuals. While the question of selecting a successor to Senator Hoar belongs primarily to the people of Massachusetts, yet the entire country is interested to the extent that it hopes and prays that the man who shall be chosen will not, in the effect of his official actions, be an enemy of his country or an ally of its enemies.

Admiral Dewey is inclined to be skeptical on the subject of the peace congress' usefulness. His opinion on this subject is not to be despised. He is something of a peace maker himself.

Robert G. Ingersoll.

Great natural ability and eloquence rare among public men were misapplied by Robert G. Ingersoll. The world can afford to be just to this man. Not only was his personal life clean and kindly in an unusual degree but the morals which he exemplified and taught—leaving out the irreverence of his attitude toward their source—were, so far as they went, admirable and beyond reproach.

It is to be expected of Russell Alger that he will henceforth nurse a sore toe. But any other man than McKinley would have given him marching orders long ago.

From a Havana Dispatch. General Ludlow, military governor of Havana, thinks that the American press and people scarcely realize the wonderful development which the last six months have wrought in Cuba.

In so far as his career offers a permanent lesson it is to illustrate at once the futility and the essential inhumanity of the professional iconoclast.

It is pleasant to read that prominent Southern men have already suggested General Fitzhugh Lee for secretary of war. General Lee, as a Democrat, would hardly expect the appointment; but the fact that it can be considered without bitterness or resentment in any quarter is an indication of the genuineness of the reconciliation between the sections.

A Civilian for the War Office.

The reported desire of the president to secure as the next secretary of war some man who, to the executive ability needed in that office shall unite the knowledge and training of a great lawyer, is explained on the ground that while the military side of the work to be done is temporarily important in the Philippines, back of that lie very difficult problems relating to the organization of colonial governments which are essentially legal problems in the larger sense of the word.

At first thought, public opinion might question the wisdom of this view; yet upon reflection it is likely to commend it. The records of the war department from the earliest time down show that almost as many civilians have filled the office of secretary as men with previous military training. Nor does it appear that the civilians have been, upon the whole, less successful than the military secretaries. They have succeeded equally well when wisely advised as to military matters by military men. The announcement has been made that with Secretary Alger's retirement the shoving of the commanding general into a corner will cease and he will hereafter receive the recognition due both to his position and to his high attainments as a soldier. This means that if the new secretary shall be a civilian he will,

War Department Is Badly Handicapped

From the Philadelphia Press.

WHETHER takes the office will not find an easy task before him. The exaggerated notion that has been inculcated by the agitation against Mr. Alger to the effect that a great improvement can at once be brought about in the administration of the office will make the place difficult satisfactorily to fill.

The work of the war department, however, is by no means difficult now as it was at the beginning of the war, when the nation had only a skeleton of an army and no provision of law for its increase.

That failure of congress has had much to do with the agitation against Secretary Alger.

SOME HUMAN DOCUMENTS.

Good Golf Story.

Golf is developing some good stories. One going the rounds tells of a match between Rev. Dr. Sterrett and Justice

Not Ready to Commit Himself. The New York Times recalls a story of Judge Hartin Grover, in his state, who used to be a leader in his party and was at one time approached by a young citizen who wished to be nominated for assembly.

Life Saved by His Wife.

Many years ago, while quite a young man, during a rebellion, Count Ito, of Japan, was hiding from his enemies, who, having tracked him to his house, sent a band of "soldiers" to surround him.

He Uttered the Sesame.

The late State Senator Sessions, of New York, says the San Francisco Argonaut, was a clerical-looking man, always wearing an immaculate white cravat, but his appearance was in some respects deceptive.

The Bootblack's Advice.

It is said that Professor Blackie often told this anecdote "on himself." This genial old professor used to form a very picturesque feature in the Edinburgh streets. He was a very old man, with handsome features and hair falling in ringlets about his shoulders; no one who had seen him could possibly forget him.

One on Senator Hale.

When he was a young man, Senator Hale, of Maine, like many young men who have later on in life made their mark in the world, was rather a bumpkin in his habits and had a very peculiar disposition which is said to be an element of success.

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past middle life, rather comely of face, who wore enormous boots, fashionable at that period. To amuse his fellow-passengers Mr. Hale pretended to be much enamored of Biddy, and would slide up close to her as if he was about to put his arms about her, look unutterable things at her, and entertained himself and his companions at the good-natured creature's expense.

PERSONALITIES.

Sleeping Bear, a full-blooded Gros Ventre Indian, successfully conducts a general store at Great Falls, Mont. He will not give his own people credit, but extends it to a limited number of whites.

John D. Rockefeller believes that the chief fault of Americans is overeating. According to his own heavy meal is dinner served at 7 in the evening.

Miss Cora Miles, the only daughter of Major General Nelson A. Miles, is a great favorite in Washington society. She is a blonde, tall, remarkably graceful, and with the frank, unaffected ways of army girls generally.

Mrs. Langtry's racing establishment at Regis, Colo., is considered only a small place, although most beautifully furnished and decorated. Indeed, says gossip, of all the racing boxes of the English great and good, Mrs. Langtry's is the only one that is not one that can compare in comfort and luxury with Mrs. Langtry's place.

John W. Gates, of Chicago, has come into prominence within half a dozen years. He was for a long time connected with the Illinois Steel company and attracted national attention first by his organization of the old steel trust.

Edward Markham, author of "The Man With the Hoe," although gray of beard and hair, is but 47 years of age; eyes dark brown, forehead high, nose aquiline, his manner frank and free, his bearing that of a manly man, in his conversation no suggestion of sanctity.

Sir Thomas Lipton, the millionaire tea merchant and cup challenger, was born in Glasgow of Scotch-Irish parents. His parents were poor and it is young Lipton came as a stowaway to America.

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THE LONG GREEN

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