

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 rule is that these must be signed, for publication, by the writer's real name.

SCRANTON, JULY 31, 1890.

A final appeal to the public is made in behalf of the Dewey home fund, which now amounts to about \$22,000. It is desired to close the fund and get a home all ready for Dewey by Oct. 1. All contributions should be forwarded to the Hon. Ellis H. Roberts, treasurer of the United States, Washington, D. C., who will issue souvenir receipts for the same.

The Southern Race Problem.

It may be true, as Governor Candler of Georgia says, that "the greatest crime ever perpetrated, not only against American ideals and institutions and human liberty but also against the Southern negro, was when, without preparation, he was clothed with all the rights and privileges and responsibilities of citizenship." Most intelligent students of the problem now admit that suffrage, far from being an inalienable right, is a privilege to be earned by merit; and that the throwing of this privilege open indiscriminately to all kinds and conditions of male humans, irrespective of race, color, intelligence or anything else short of absolute insanity, however well meant, constitutes an injustice alike to those who are fit for it and those who are not.

This being admitted, as we think it must be, it follows that reasonable objection cannot be taken to the proposition to undo some of the mistakes of the past, in the direction of a too profuse bestowal of suffrage, by the setting up of restrictive tests. Opinion may divide as to how these tests should be applied. Many who favor an educational test, together with some inquiry as to morals, hate at the qualification of a property qualification, and vice versa. But upon the general proposition, considered in the abstract, that gross ignorance and vice should not have the legal right to go to the ballot box and by their votes, ignorantly or viciously cast, neutralize an equal number of votes cast by intelligent, high-minded citizens there is, we believe, among those who are frank in the matter, substantial unanimity of opinion.

Pingree and the Press.

Governor Pingree, of Michigan, is an eccentric individual whom it is easy to ridicule; yet in a letter to the Outlook he presents some opinions concerning daily newspapers which deserved to be considered seriously. His letter is a denial of certain published interviews upon which the Outlook has commented; and in the course of it he says:

"Experience has taught me that it is useless to deny a newspaper statement. The public man who questions the veracity of a reporter, or disputes the authenticity of an interview or other newspaper article, receives from the editor nothing but sneers and abuse and the ridicule of the cartoon. In fact, it is not uncommon to have one's denial misinterpreted and twisted into an admission of the truth of the disputed article. The editor never recovers from a position once taken. His moral atmosphere and his ethical code are too limited and narrow to admit that himself and his journal have erred. A just correction can be wrung from a newspaper only through the instrumentality of a libel suit. I think that every public man will privately, at least, agree with these conclusions, and those with sufficient courage to antagonize such a powerful institution as the daily press will publicly assent to them. It is a familiar saying that the newspaper can make or unmake a man in public life. This may have been true in the past, when the newspaper more nearly approached the ideal. It is perhaps true to a certain extent today; but I believe the time is not far distant when the hypocrisy and selfishness and venality of the press will show through its alleged virtues, and reveal to the public the true, inwardness of modern newspaper policy and management. Attacks upon public men by partisan newspapers will then have no effect upon the public mind. 'Yellow' journalism is already synonymous with everything that is contemptible and corrupt, and it will not be long before public sentiment will crystallize into laws which will make fair interviews and other methods used by newspapers of attacking public men criminal. The spirit of fairness characteristic of the American people will not long tolerate the prostitution of the power of the press to such base purposes. The 'liberty of the press' cannot always be appealed to as a justification for an instrument of injury which is infinitely more dangerous than outright abuse and vilification."

Governor Pingree's arraignment, of course, is too sweeping and too severe. It applies to some newspapers very accurately; but not to all—not to a majority. The statement, for example, that threat of a libel suit is necessary to secure a just correction is wide of the truth in a large majority of instances; the threat more often acting to militate against than to facilitate correction. Any honest editor is glad to undo an error when shown in a civil manner that one has been committed. But that same editor resents being bullied and is likely to show his resentment by limiting a correction to the fewest words possible when if the many course had been adopted in approaching him he would have volunteered a generous reparation. As for the statement that an editor never recedes, here again we have an example of the too sweeping assertion. The dogmatic, would-be infallible editor is rapidly going out of date. People these days think for themselves. They are willing that the editor should suggest ideas to

not found among normal men contentedly situated and with bright prospects before them. Take from the negro opportunity and ambition and you concentrate his natural energies in the direction of passion and lust. The society which shuts the door of normal development in the negro's face opens another door to the peril of its woman-kind and to the gross accompaniments of mob law and general demoralization. This is the lesson above all others which the South most needs to learn.

Another socialistic scheme has come to grief. The property of the cooperative colony of Ruskin, a Bellamy enterprise established six years ago in the uplands of Tennessee, has just been sold by receiver. On the basis of suppressed individuality it simply illustrates the inevitable.

A Good Judge of Men.

The story that it was Roosevelt's vigorous protest which forced the master of Alger's retirement to a focus and made it possible for McKinley to unhook may or may not be true. But whether it is or not, Roosevelt has certainly played a large part in the history-making of the past two years.

Did you ever stop to think that to this reputedly impetuous and headstrong man (taking him at the lowest valuation of his critics) we owe not only a good deal of the credit for the navy's success in the war with Spain, on account of the vigorous way in which he fought to get it in shape for war, but also the placing in the line of duty and promotion of the two men who have since gained recognition the world over as the finest revelations of that war? But for Theodore Roosevelt George Dewey might today be a little known man living in sheltered ease at a Washington club and Leonard Wood a virtually unknown army contract surgeon. If statesmanship consists, among other things, in the ability to pick the right men for responsible places, then Governor Roosevelt certainly has by these two instances alone won the right to be considered a statesman of no inferior order.

A third selection of his will soon go on trial in the person of Elihu Root, the new secretary of war. If he shall prove to be in the Dewey-Wood class, the least that this country can do in testimony of appreciation to his sponsor is to make Roosevelt's election to the presidency in 1896 practically unanimous.

The difference of opinion between Mayor Farley, of Cleveland, and Adjutant General Axline as to who is boss should be settled without delay. When the mob spirit is rife and any minute may bring forth riot, it is well to have, believe among those who are frank in the matter, substantial unanimity of opinion.

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them, and they are ready to give him a hearing when he has a case to argue, but they no longer take opinions from him ready made.

There are, to be sure, a good many yellow and yellowish journals and one or two downright obscene and utterly depraved journals, of which the Scrantonian in this city has the distinction to be without question the unapproachable worst; but what proportion do these bear to the newspaper press as a whole? Not enough to satisfy Mr. Pingree's remarks. He is right in saying that the excesses of these unrepresentative publications need to be suppressed by law but he is unfair in condemning the whole guild for the depravity of a minority among its membership.

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OUTCROPS OF HUMANITY.

The Leg Was Wooden.

The Royal society is the English analogue of the French academy. Many years ago a sailor who had broken his leg was admitted to the Royal society an account of the remarkable manner in which he had healed the fracture. He did so. His story was that, having fractured a limb by falling from the top of a mast, he dressed it with tar and oakum, which had proved so wonderfully efficacious that in three days he was able to walk just as well as before the accident. This remarkable story naturally caused some excitement among the members of the society, who had previously heard of tar and oakum as possessing some curious healing powers. Several letters accordingly passed between the Royal society and the humble sailor who continued to assert most solemnly that his broken leg had been treated with tar and oakum and had apparently only the leg was a wooden one."

Great truths are dearly bought. The Salmonion truth, Such as men give and take from day to day. Comes in the common walk of easy life. Blown by the careless wind, across our way.

Great truths are greatly won, not found by chance. Nor waited on the breath of summer dream; But grasped in the great struggle of the soul. Hard buffeting with adverse wind and stream.

But in the day of conflict, fear and grief, When the strong hand of God, put forth in might, Plows up the subsoil of the stagnant heart, And brings the imprisoned truth-seed to the light.

Wrung from the troubled spirit, in hard hours, Of weakness, solitude, perchance of pain, Truth springs like harvest from the well-preserved field, And the soul feels it has not wept in vain. —Bonar.

Remembered Best of All. When I'm looking back across the time-worn pages. Of the book of years one face I always see, Just one gentle face that alters not nor ages. But others now and evermore the same to me. I can feel the loving hand in mine entwining, When my faltering childish steps were fain to fall, With its watchful eyes like stars upon me shining— 'Tis the face that I remember best of all!

When I look around, and memory is bringing Back again the echoed songs of long Songs that ever down the hall of Time are ringing. Songs that set my listening youthful heart aglow— All the visions bright of years gone by they bring me. And the desire to hold my spirit in their thrall, But the simple air a dear voice used to sing me, Is the song that I remember best of all!

When I dream of all the gladness that has blest me, And the sunshine that has made life's pathway bright, When I long from all the toll of earth to rest me, Till the dawning of the day that knows no night, I remember all the love the years have taught me, And the happiness that filled them I recall; But a mother's love and all the joy it brought me Is the love that I remember best of all! —Chambers' Journal.

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