

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, AUGUST 2, 1899.

Beginning with August 1 the commanding general of the United States should command, if Miles is not worthy of trust get one who is.

Beyond the Limit of Patience.

The legal proceedings begun yesterday against the editor of the Scrantonian aim to test whether there is redress at law for those who are maliciously attacked by that crime in journalism. The law is supposed to protect the individual citizen and to draw a line around the liberty of the press dividing liberty from license.

The general testimony of persons who have made newspapers a study is that the Scrantonian since it came under the management of this man Little has been incomparably the lowest, meanest and most obscene publication ever printed in the United States.

With reference to the suit begun yesterday it is proper to say that the plaintiff in this action sees more in the interest of public decency than from personal considerations. Abuse he is used to, the desire in the present instance is simply to see whether the law is adequate to suppress a festering public iniquity which has gone beyond the limits of patience and reached a point where something has to be done in way of cure.

The administration's credit for appointing Leonard Wood to the position he now holds would be enhanced by his promotion to the chief command in Cuba.

May Intervene in Santo Domingo.

That the United States may have to intervene in Santo Domingo under circumstances which would probably mean a permanent protectorate is more probable than most casual readers of the current news now suspect. The national debt of the Dominican republic has for some time been under the financial control of a company dominated by New York financiers, who bought it in cheaply from a syndicate in Holland, which had been unable to collect the interest.

Under the Monroe Doctrine, not Challenged by any European Power.

The United States is not acting for any more mongrel tropical wards, but if a further paternal oversight shall fall to it in the line of unsought duty the job will be accepted and completed with, let us hope, neatness and dispatch.

In one respect the London Times certainly owes General Alger an apology.

Its assertion of fraud in war disbursement has not a leg to stand on.

A Lesson from Kentucky.

It is to the credit of the American people that notorious fraud in politics is invariably condemned by them, without distinction as to party lines. The revolt against gubernatorial Candidate Goebel in Kentucky, which today at Lexington is expected to take the form of an independent Democratic ticket headed by a former governor of Kentucky who was until recently chairman of the Democratic state committee, has occurred among as stiff partisans as are to be found in the United States.

Has the United States Stopped Growing?

The record of a rapid decrease in the American birth-rate was one of the notable results of the census of 1890 and the census of 1900 seems likely to show still further decrease. Mr. H. T. Newcomb, a statistician in the Agricultural department well equal to the task, reaches the conclusion that the population in 1900 will be 74,899,860. This increase, 15.94 per cent. for the decade, is far below that of any previous decade. If the population had grown fast from 1890 to 1900 as in the decade just before, the population next year would be about 78,000,000. Taking the mean increase in that past twenty years the population would be 75,880,000.

An Unwise Selection.

A returned missionary, giving some account of his experiences in Jamaica, says that he was once called upon to act as arbitrator between a man and his wife who had had a violent quarrel.

Called Gibraltar of Democracy.

A reporter in thirty-five minutes, taking men as he met them, in a visit to the principal points of business in Owensboro, secured expressions from seventy-seven life-long Democrats, who said that they were glad of an opportunity to support Governor Brown.

Prize money for naval captures favors of piracy but inasmuch as it was authorized by law one year ago Dewey, Sampson and their men should be paid what the government owes them.

General Alger's Statement.

Although it contributes to the public information nothing either startling or new, the farewell statement of the outgoing secretary of war makes plain in a dignified way the immensity of the task with which the war department has had to deal and leaves it to the public to judge how far its criticisms of General Alger, the individual, have been deserved.

General Alger's Statement.

It remains for those who were until recently associated with General Alger in official responsibility and for his successor in office to get to the bottom of the trouble underneath all this public clamor and present the evils which have had to deal with or leave it to the public to judge how far its criticisms of General Alger, the individual, have been deserved.

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From 1880 to 1890 there were received 5,246,211 immigrants. The immigration this decade, Mr. Newcomb estimates, will not be over 3,624,133. There remains a loss of from 2,000,000 to 2,500,000 in the population, if the increase 1880 to 1890 had kept up, due to a decrease in the birth-rate, black and white. In 1890 there were 1,800,000 less children under 10 years old than were expected, judging from the number in 1880. This decade promises to outdo this record.

What He Wanted.

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Boiling Eggs for the Bishop.

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rising until they finally came to blows and fought until this missionary was forced to use all his strength in separating them.

He succeeded in calming them, and induced them to remain to prayer meeting. After a hymn had been sung the missionary requested each person present to give a quotation from the Scriptures, whereupon the man who had the difficulty with his wife came up and said, briefly: "I have fought a good fight."

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NUBS OF KNOWLEDGE.

Saws were used by the ancient Egyptians. One that was discovered with several other carpenter's tools in a private tomb at Thebes, is now preserved in the British museum.

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