

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 4, 1899.

The sewer sheet's estimate of damages to its character is too modest far. It should have sued for a million.

Street Car Facilities to Nay Aug.

Where a difference exists between reasonable men, very often it can be settled by a little mutual concession. A difference now exists between the city of Scranton as represented by the mayor and the Scranton Railway company over the right of the latter to build an extension which will enable it to furnish suitable accommodations for the multitudes who in summer time frequent Nay Aug park.

The company claims the right to build this loop line by virtue of a grant made to it by the Lackawanna Iron and Coal company, which still holds the title deeds to the streets that are affected. The city in the person of the mayor claims the right to prevent the company from building the loop because of the expiration of its municipal franchise. The mayor let the company go on until it had almost completed the line and then suddenly intervened. There the matter stands.

On the legal side an issue is presented involving good opportunities for argument both pro and con. It is apparently true that the Valley Passenger franchise under which the right to use Mulberry and Olive streets and Arthur avenue was conceded for two years no longer holds good so far as the unoccupied portions of these streets are concerned. On the other hand, the fact that the portions in question are not yet city property but remain the property of the Iron and Coal company seems to give standing to the Railway company's claim that it has from the Iron and Coal company a valid right of way. We do not pretend to know enough about law to figure out the legal solution of these conflicting problems, but it is evident that if the issue is sent into the courts for determination no settlement will be reached this year and maybe none until too late to affect the parkward travel next season. While the lawyers would be tearing each other's arguments to pieces the great majority of Scrantonians wishing to go to the park would have to take chances on the present utterly inadequate car service or would have to walk. Incidentally all persons residing near the park, who when they purchased lots in that locality were promised street car facilities on the strength of the Iron and Coal company's agreement with the Traction company, would be forced to endure for an indefinite time an inconvenience already too long prolonged.

This being true, why should not the city and the street railway company come together and harmonize their differences? The city wants good car facilities to and from the park; so does the company. If the city objects to giving a franchise away, or to remembering a canceled one without a consideration, why should not the company, even though holding a private right of way, offer as an equivalent for the lifting of the city's embargo a certain stated yearly sum, or a percentage on park fares, or both, to be contributed with the understanding that it must be applied to improving the park and helping to make it attractive to the people? This would be a good business policy in any event. We realize that the company feels that it was not fairly treated by the city when it was allowed to spend a large sum on the proposed extension before the city intervened; from the company's standpoint this undoubtedly savors of injustice, since the company claims that its right of way is valid in spite of the lapsing of the franchise; but there is a third factor to be considered, namely, public convenience; and to facilitate this both company and mayor ought to be willing to make concessions.

A special reason why this matter ought to be adjusted in some way within the next few weeks consists of the fact that when the firemen and letter carriers hold their conventions in this city in the fall there will be an unusual necessity for prompt and adequate car facilities to and from the park. If these are to be provided work must not be longer deferred.

Chief Invariant Flann, just back from Europe, says Quay will never again sit in the United States senate. Time will show whether sea air makes good prophecy.

Secretary Root's Beginning.

The manner in which Secretary Root began his career in the war department inspires confidence. His first official act, we are told, was to take Adjutant General Corbin in tow and call on Major General Miles. The three were in conference for half an hour and when they emerged all were smiling. The action is said to be without precedent but it looks like a very sensible and timely one. If, as we suspect, it was conceived with a view to bringing the two subdivisions into a better mutual understanding, it is a fine beginning. In writing of the incident, the Washington correspondent of the Democratic Philadelphia Record, who has been a partisan of Miles against Alger, has the grace to say: "Secretary Root, who has been known as a diplomatist as well as a fighter, began the most important task he has ever undertaken at the beginning today and in the best possible way, and as a result has already established a modus vivendi between General Miles and Adjutant General Corbin which will end, he hopes, in lasting peace to his advantage and that of the government and the country. He has made it thoroughly well understood in a perfectly courteous

and pleasant way that he proposes to be secretary of war and to 'run' the War department at the same time utilizing to the full the military experience and wisdom of both General Miles and General Corbin, as well as the other army officers on duty at the war department, who will, of course, have to look after the technical military affairs, while Secretary Root is devoting himself especially to the great questions of administration, particularly respecting the islands taken from Spain. Secretary Root seems to have the strength, as well as the diplomacy that Secretary Alger lacked, and therefore to be able to manage the conflicting elements in the War department and make them work together for good. This is more important than any mere change in the language of regulations or in the character of red tape."

The country is heartily weary of the jealousies and bickerings and departmental intrigues which were so evident during the regime of Secretary Alger and it wishes Godspeed to Secretary Root in his new task of putting things in order.

The Opinions of Private Soldiers Concerning General Otis are Interesting but not necessarily important.

The opinions of private soldiers concerning General Otis are interesting but not necessarily important. The acquisition of the Philippines, which seems to be one of the immediate possibilities, as well as American domination over many other islands of the Orient, will force us to become an important factor in the commerce of Asiatic waters. We are already making wonderful inroads commercially in many other markets of the world, but to our disadvantage our commerce is being carried in foreign vessels. Everywhere in the world we see ships laden with American merchandise flying the flags of other nations, and every year thousands of Americans go abroad in English, French, Dutch and German steamers. I believe we should attach more importance to this subject in our schools, so that our young men may be induced to study navigation and allied sciences pertaining to ocean traffic. For a country with the enormous wealth, magnificent coast lines and incomparable industry of the United States to be dependent for ocean carriage on other nations is an anomaly too serious to last.

A Work for the School Teacher.

The spirit which Americans would like to see exhibited by all the inhabitants of our new dependencies is indicated happily in a letter recently written by the mayor of Ponce, the leading city in Porto Rico. Last June the pupils in the Bryant and Lincoln public schools of Plainfield, N. J., prompted by Dr. H. K. Carroll, United States commissioner to Porto Rico, presented to Mr. Carroll one large and 209 small flags for the American free school at Ponce. The gift was duly forwarded and in acknowledgment the mayor of Ponce, Luis Ferrata Doria, has written:

"The patriotic act of the Bryant and Lincoln public schools of Plainfield in sending to the American free school of Ponce a beautiful national flag and a number of smaller ones so that our children might appropriately celebrate Decoration Day and July 4 deserves the praise of all persons who truly enjoy the greatness of the American republic. Fortunately today my small island of Porto Rico is an integral part of that great country, and I as a Porto Rican am proud to be called an American. I have unlimited faith in the future of Porto Rico under the gallant flag of the Stars and Stripes; for a country formed under the influence of the good advice of Washington, Franklin and Lincoln cannot but carry, wherever Providence beckons it to go, freedom and progress. I am not at all impatient and am tranquilly awaiting the unfolding of events, being sure that sooner or later we will gain my always cherished ideal—the fulness of American citizenship."

It is, after all, through the schools rather than through any special policy of political administration that the problems of reconstruction must be solved in these new dependencies. If the Porto Rican, the Cuban and the Filipino young can be taught what American principles mean and what the American intention with respect to their political future is, the next generation in those islands will put aside the suspicious and the superstitious of the present and co-operate cordially in the forward movement. Mr. Bryan's plea for more American school teachers in the dependencies is lands is sound in principle, although made by him at an unreasonable time for partisan purposes entirely. When the proper time comes the school teacher must complete the task which the soldier-politician has been compelled to begin.

Governor Pingree considers the American newspaper the greatest menace in existence. It is—to crank and fakery.

Electrolysis.

A newspaper clipping now on its rounds quotes one Mr. Houston, of Boston, an electrician, as follows: "The days of the underground cast and wrought iron gas, water and steam pipes are about numbered. Electrolysis is playing high jinks with the iron pipes in all the big cities, and in a few years from now the water pipes will become so weak that they will burst every time any pressure is put on them on account of being corroded by the action of the powerful currents." He says glass pipes will be used. "In many cities in Europe and in this country glass pipes are used in the streets for conveying water, gas, oil and steam, and they give perfect satisfaction. There will be no electrolysis where there is glass, as glass is an almost absolute non-conductor of electricity. Inside of the next five years investigation will show that electrolysis has practically destroyed every high pressure water and gas line in every city in the country. The iron pipe will be replaced with glass pipes, and all danger from electrolysis will have disappeared. It will be a hard blow on the iron industries of the country, but will boost the glass factories. I will venture the prediction," Mr. Houston adds, "that seven years from now nothing will be used for underground piping of all kinds where high pressures are carried except glass."

Electrolysis, we are told by those who have made a study of electrical phenomena, is caused very largely by the trolley system of travel. If you will observe where two rails are joined on a trolley car line you will see that wires connect one rail with the other, forming, with the rails, a continuous circuit. When this circuit is broken; when the electrical current which it is supposed to take care of is permitted to go into the ground, it is said to exert a disintegrating effect on both iron and lead pipes within a considerable radius. Under certain conditions pipes a mile away from a poorly insulated trolley system have been known to soften and become almost putty-like.

If these assertions of the experts are not exaggerated it is evident that a broad basis of future litigation and trouble is being laid by careless users

of electricity. The law in its treatment of problems in equity growing out of applied electrical energy has not yet been formulated as carefully as it must be in the future; but on broad lines it is safe to conclude that the person who as a result of negligence or carelessness inflicts upon another damage which could by care have been avoided can be held responsible. To think otherwise would be to doubt the efficiency of our courts of law.

The singular thing about this whole matter is that while electricians warn people against the use of iron and lead underground pipes in the vicinity of applied electrical currents, and show by evidence that such use is extravagant because likely to necessitate frequent renewals, civil engineers, building and plumbers go right on using them. Evidently there is a difference of opinion as to the reality of these alleged dangers; but it is not a matter of sufficient importance to warrant a thorough investigation?

Good doctrine was that put forth by Iowa Republicans on Wednesday when they affirmed: "There shall be no division among us until all in arms against the flag shall confess the supreme rights and honors and shall know that, even in the farthest East, it is the sign and promise of equal law, of justice, and liberty throughout the land and to all the inhabitants thereof." This is the doctrine which William J. Bryan ought to study.

An Intolerable Anomaly.

The great lesson to the American people of the recent war with Spain, according to Bishop Hogan, of Kansas City, is the crying necessity for a broader knowledge of maritime affairs among the young men of the country. America should take her rightful place among nations in inter-oceanic traffic. "Whenever I travel abroad," the bishop adds, "I always strain my eyes looking, too often in vain, for the American flag among the great shipping wharves of the world. That is the sort of expansion I would like to see occupy some of the attention of the American people. Destiny has marked out America's future and we could not change it if we would. The acquisition of the Philippines, which seems to be one of the immediate possibilities, as well as American domination over many other islands of the Orient, will force us to become an important factor in the commerce of Asiatic waters. We are already making wonderful inroads commercially in many other markets of the world, but to our disadvantage our commerce is being carried in foreign vessels. Everywhere in the world we see ships laden with American merchandise flying the flags of other nations, and every year thousands of Americans go abroad in English, French, Dutch and German steamers. I believe we should attach more importance to this subject in our schools, so that our young men may be induced to study navigation and allied sciences pertaining to ocean traffic. For a country with the enormous wealth, magnificent coast lines and incomparable industry of the United States to be dependent for ocean carriage on other nations is an anomaly too serious to last."

Under the Eaves.

Hidden by dusk and dust they lie
Under the spacious eaves;
Rusty and broken and all awry
The castaways of years gone by
The gloomy death receives.
Leather-bound books of quaint design
With yellow and well-worn leaves,
(Chiefly telling of things aivine)
A cracked decanter enlabeled "Wine"
Under the gloomy eaves.
A tiny cricket—a broken chair—
A bridle-cowhide trunk;
A strange old stove, so rough and square,
Filled with rusty cooking-ware
And other kitchen junk.
A little cradle, rude and plain.
How faintly round it weaves
The tale of mother joy and pain,
That all these fleeting years had lain
Under the gloomy eaves.
And so to each poor castaway
Some tender fancy cleaves;
The relic of old days, old say
"Oh save it yet another day,"
Under the spacious eaves.
—Boston Courier.

A Fable.

A Wild Rose awoke by the pasture wall,
A beautiful shrub with branches tall,
With wonderful color and rich perfume,
A daisy looked up at her rosy bloom.
"Of which are you proud, Rose so fair,
Of your stems or leaves or your flowers
"Of neither," said Rose with a graceful bend,
"I am proudest of my roots, sweet friend."
"Of your roots? Those ugly things down
in the earth."
Here all the daisies bent with mirth,
And a bobolink swinging on a twig
Sang and danced his loveliest jig.
"Of my roots," said the Rose, "for they
work away,
Down there in the darkness, day after
day,
Contented if only the flowers blow
Up here in the sun, while they toil be-
low."
—Universalist Leader.

The Seasonable Question.

Sun like a furnace hung up overhead,
Burnin' and blazin' and blisterin' red;
Sky like an ocean, so blue and so deep,
One little cloud-skip, heaved and asleep;
Breeds all gone and the leaves hangin'
still,
Shimmer of heat on the meadow and hill,
Gray squirts chattering as they might
say,
"Who's the chump talkin' of workin'
today?"
Robert's song tells how the pickeret wait,
Under the fly-pads, hungry for bait,
I oughter make for that cornfield, I
know,
But—where's the fishin' pole? Hang
the old hoe!
—Joe Lincoln in Saturday Evening Post.

Secret of the Rush.

While Chauncey M. Depew, says the Argonaut, was at the Omaha Exposition he and President Callaway of the New York Central, changed to go into a booth on the midway. It was a game of entertainment, and their stay would have been very brief except for the fact that they had scarcely taken their seats before there began a steady pouring of people, which continued until the small auditorium was crowded. Half an hour's waiting failed to reward their patient expectancy; however, and Mr. Callaway suggested that they move on. Just then ex-Secretary of Agriculture J. Sterling Morton pushed his way through the crowd, and extending his hand to Mr. Depew, exclaimed:
"Well, Dr. Depew, so you are really here! I thought that 'barber' was lying."
"What do you mean?" inquired Mr. Depew.
"Why, the 'barber' for this show is standing outside and inviting the crowd to 'step up level' to come to the privilege of seeing the 'great and holy Chauncey M. Depew.'"

President Dwight's Stock Story.

It is not the habit in large colleges for the undergraduates to come closely in contact with the president, but those few who did call on Dr. Dwight found him to be the soul of courtesy, sympathy and kindness. Every year it was the custom of the doctor to deliver a course of "talks" before the freshman class. As the class changed each year the doctor repeated the same advice in practically the same language each season. There was one story which he invariably told, it was concerning William M. Everts, and illustrated the pleasure that a well-trained mind derives from itself. "Mr. Everts once said," the doctor used to say, "that he has answered to a call for two reasons. First, because he liked to hear a clever man talk, and second, because he enjoyed having a bright

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The second city of the British Empire in size is Calcutta.
An area of the world's coal fields is 47,300 square miles.
Land in England is 800 times as valuable now as it was 300 years ago.
This country consumed 30,000,000 pounds of tea in 1897, valued at \$12,000,000.
Russia consumes on an average no less than 1,000,000 tons of liquor fuel a year.
Great Britain buys more than 20,000 horses in the United States every year.
An electric automobile in France recently ran 124 miles without recharging.
Liquid fuel is fast taking the place of coal on the vessels plying in the far east.
At Wardbury, Norway, the longest day lasts from May 21 to July 22 without interruption.
It is estimated that the consumption of beer in the entire world amounts to \$1,000,000,000 per annum.
An immense steel rail order has been awarded to the Carnegie Steel company for Prussian railroads.
In Berlin the pawnshop is a royal and philanthropic institution. Any profit that is made is spent on charity.
The copper production of the United States in the year 1888 was the largest ever recorded in a single year.
It is estimated that at the beginning of the 19th century England had a year's 200,000,000 tons of coal still unused and available.
It has been estimated that English people use an average of eight matches each person per day, and annually over 1,300,000,000,000 are burned.
At Roubaix, one of the Socialist strongholds of France, the 11,000 public school children receive free food and clothing, at the expense of the town.
Electricity has been applied to the manufacture of glass. A pot of glass can be melted in fifteen minutes that by the old process required thirty hours.
During the nine years ended Dec. 31, 1892, the New York bureau gives the cost to labor organizations of strikes, lockouts and boycotts as \$1,896,165.41, or \$20,928.99 per year.
It is reported from Washington that the United States Navy Department has under consideration the housing of sailors in a manner similar to the system of European countries.
It is proposed to import several thousand Chinese direct from China to work on the coffee plantations of southern Mexico. The natives are suffering owing to a lack of native labor.
Perhaps the only word that is the same in all languages is the "Hello!" in response to the telephone call. Wherever there is a telephone line the word is in use, and means just what it does in English.
New York city annually pays \$50 in gold, in one payment, to every blind person who has been a resident of the metropolis, and who has not been an occupant of a city institution during that time.
Eighty-four per cent of the entire state of Idaho is still public land, amounting to more than 44,000,000 acres. Of this area it has been estimated by the government Geographical Survey that 7,000,000 acres can be successfully irrigated.
If the reports of the criminal courts of the state of New York may be taken as an index it is safe to say that crime is on the decrease in the United States. In 1897 there were 4,323 convictions, as against only 3,267 in 1898. This shows a decrease of 26, or nearly 20 per cent.
An old monument was desired by an elderly maiden lady who died a few weeks ago in Athlone, Ireland. She left a fortune of £27,000 to be spent in the erection of a church, provided that her body should be converted into ashes and used in making the mortar for building the edifice.
At a meeting of middle class women of Athens, held recently, it was decided to ask parliament to impose a heavy tax on all bachelors over 40 years old. The passage of any such measure is said to be unlikely, for the Chamber has become the chief resort of well-to-do bachelors. Consequently the tax would hit them heavily.
The most costly and precious wine in the world is that contained in a cask named the "Rose," in the Bremen Town Hall cellars. This Rudesheim, of the vintage of the year 1653, is of the color of old ale, and has a wonderful aroma, though a rather heavy taste. It is never sold, but is used exclusively for the stews of Bremen.

His Customary Way.

To illustrate that the three score and thirteen years of life were merely a matter of time Judge Clayton, of Delaware county, Pa., jumped from a trolley car before it stopped. He did not land according to calculation and made several acrobatic evolutions before he rested quietly. The conductor rushed up to the fallen jurist and insisted upon having the supposed injured man's name, as the company's rules require. Thereupon Judge Clayton arose and exclaimed vehemently, "I'm not hurt, blast you! That's the way I always get off a car!"—Pittsburg Dispatch.

President Hadley Confused.

It is told at Yale that Professor Hadley was riding to college one day in a horse car when old Professor Seymour, Greek department, got on and warmly greeted him. At the same moment the conductor came up for his fare. Mr. Hadley for an instant was in a dilemma; he rose, and calmly shaking hands with the conductor gave Professor Seymour his car fare.

TOUCHES OF SENTIMENT.

The Mother's Prayer.
Before his father's golden gateway stood
A host of souls that were not wholly good
Of which he bled, awaiting the decree
—From their father's breast they were
Within, the vicar scanned the pleas
(that had been offered in behalf of these
By souls on earth; the solemn masses
said;
Lit-Hutians; each service for the dead;
The sweet petitions from uplifted eyes,
And the beseeching mercy from the skies,
Looking on that light of radiant grace
Illumined that fair angel's beauteous
face—
He loitered glances softly linger where
There shone a dying mother's fervent
prayer
For her lost son, sent with her latest
Forgetful of herself 'e'en when in death!

The angel blotted out his page of sin
And first of all that best he entered in!
—Cluskey Cromwell, in Washington Star.

My Song.

My song shall be a joyous one:
Of shady nooks and meadows fair,
To the brook and the American flag among the
Great shipping wharves of the world.
That is the sort of expansion I would
like to see occupy some of the attention
of the American people. Destiny has
marked out America's future and we
could not change it if we would.
The acquisition of the Philippines,
which seems to be one of the immediate
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country with the enormous wealth,
magnificent coast lines and incomparable
industry of the United States to be
dependent for ocean carriage on
other nations is an anomaly too serious
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The Poet.

His home is in the heights; to him
Men wage a battle wild and dim,
Life is a mission stern as fate,
And song a dread apostrophe,
And tolls of prophecy are his.
To ease the steps and lift the load
Of souls that suffer on the road,
The perilous music that he hears
Falls from the vortex of the spheres.
He presses on before the race,
And sings out of a silent place,
Like faint notes of a forest bird
On heights afar that voice is heard;
And the dim path he so bravely
Will some time be a trodden way.
But when the race comes tolling on
That voice of wonder will be gone—
He heard on his peerless air,
Moved upward with the morning star.
O men of earth, that wondering voice
Still goes the upward way refined!
—Edwin Markham.

Under the Eaves.

Hidden by dusk and dust they lie
Under the spacious eaves;
Rusty and broken and all awry
The castaways of years gone by
The gloomy death receives.
Leather-bound books of quaint design
With yellow and well-worn leaves,
(Chiefly telling of things aivine)
A cracked decanter enlabeled "Wine"
Under the gloomy eaves.
A tiny cricket—a broken chair—
A bridle-cowhide trunk;
A strange old stove, so rough and square,
Filled with rusty cooking-ware
And other kitchen junk.
A little cradle, rude and plain.
How faintly round it weaves
The tale of mother joy and pain,
That all these fleeting years had lain
Under the gloomy eaves.
And so to each poor castaway
Some tender fancy cleaves;
The relic of old days, old say
"Oh save it yet another day,"
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A beautiful shrub with branches tall,
With wonderful color and rich perfume,
A daisy looked up at her rosy bloom.
"Of which are you proud, Rose so fair,
Of your stems or leaves or your flowers
"Of neither," said Rose with a graceful bend,
"I am proudest of my roots, sweet friend."
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in the earth."
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And a bobolink swinging on a twig
Sang and danced his loveliest jig.
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work away,
Down there in the darkness, day after
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Contented if only the flowers blow
Up here in the sun, while they toil be-
low."
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Sun like a furnace hung up overhead,
Burnin' and blazin' and blisterin' red;
Sky like an ocean, so blue and so deep,
One little cloud-skip, heaved and asleep;
Breeds all gone and the leaves hangin'
still,
Shimmer of heat on the meadow and hill,
Gray squirts chattering as they might
say,
"Who's the chump talkin' of workin'
today?"
Robert's song tells how the pickeret wait,
Under the fly-pads, hungry for bait,
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New York city annually pays \$50 in gold, in one payment, to every blind person who has been a resident of the metropolis, and who has not been an occupant of a city institution during that time.
Eighty-four per cent of the entire state of Idaho is still public land, amounting to more than 44,000,000 acres. Of this area it has been estimated by the government Geographical Survey that 7,000,000 acres can be successfully irrigated.
If the reports of the criminal courts of the state of New York may be taken as an index it is safe to say that crime is on the decrease in the United States. In 1897 there were 4,323 convictions, as against only 3,267 in 1898. This shows a decrease of 26, or nearly 20 per cent.
An old monument was desired by an elderly maiden lady who died a few weeks ago in Athlone, Ireland. She left a fortune of £27,000 to be spent in the erection of a church, provided that her body should be converted into ashes and used in making the mortar for building the edifice.
At a meeting of middle class women of Athens, held recently, it was decided to ask parliament to impose a heavy tax on all bachelors over 40 years old. The passage of any such measure is said to be unlikely, for the Chamber has become the chief resort of well-to-do bachelors. Consequently the tax would hit them heavily.
The most costly and precious wine in the world is that contained in a cask named the "Rose," in the Bremen Town Hall cellars. This Rudesheim, of the vintage of the year 1653, is of the color of old ale, and has a wonderful aroma, though a rather heavy taste. It is never sold, but is used exclusively for the stews of Bremen.

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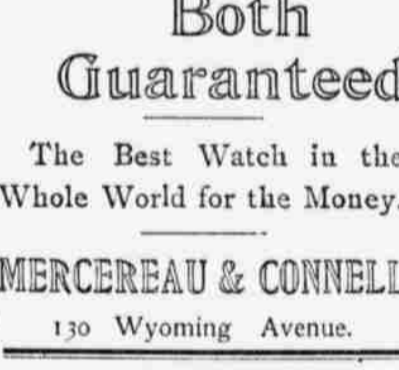
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