

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, OCTOBER 31, 1899.

REPUBLICAN NOMINATIONS.

State. Justice of the Supreme Court—J. HAY BROWN, of Lancaster.

Justices of the Superior Court—JOHN I. MITCHELL, of Tioga. State Treasurer—LIEUTENANT COLONEL JAMES E. BARNETT, of Washington.

County.

Commissioners—JOHN COURIER MORRIS, of Scranton; JOHN PENNMAN, of Olyphant. Auditors—WILLIAM E. JOHNS and ASA E. KIEFER, both of Scranton. Election day, Nov. 7.

One week from today every citizen of Lackawanna county should go to the polls and vote the straight Republican ticket. That is the proper way to show appreciation of Republican good times.

Here's a Fair Challenge.

THE PRESENT treasurer of Pennsylvania, Hon. James S. Bacon, says: "I notice that 'Farmer' Cressy is traveling about the state telling the people how anxious he is to get into the Treasury department and take the lid off. He is making the boldest assertions about official rottenness and corruption and holding forth the idea that the people can only be relieved from their thralldom by his election as state treasurer. The records of the Treasury department are public records. Every citizen of this commonwealth has a right to come there and examine every book and paper in the department, and no man since I have been treasurer has been refused access to anything that is in the office.

"If 'Farmer' Cressy is as honest as he pretends to be why does he not come to the Treasury department and 'lift the lid' as he calls it, and find out what is wrong and tell the people in plain English what it is that is rotten and corrupt? 'Farmer' Cressy's statements about the Treasury department and its management show either lamentable ignorance or a willful disposition to misstate facts, and in either case he is not the best man to be selected for the office.

"The whole effort to deceive the people into the belief that there is something concealed about the Treasury department is simply hold dishonestly. I have stood upon the platform time after time since I have taken charge of the Treasury department and have asked the people before whom I was talking to come to the Treasury department themselves if they were so disposed, or to appoint experts and examine everything in it and about it, and satisfy themselves as to whether there was anything there that would not bear out public inspection. This whole talk about the Treasury department is for political purposes solely and absolutely and is a wrong to the people of the commonwealth."

An Unsympathetic Doctor.

ONE DR. HILLIS, of New York city improved the occasion of the recent meeting of the New York State Medical association to gain notoriety by means of a paper extolling in exaggerated fashion the medicinal merits of alcohol. Had he stopped there no layman could have objected, since the question of the scientific value of a drug is properly one for consideration by practitioners of medicine. But he did not stop within the limits of his profession; he overstepped these limits to express these sweeping untechnical sentiments:

"Alcohol in the banquet hall, in the beer garden and at the domestic hearth makes hundreds merry for every ten it renders miserable and every one it destroys. The man is justified who, feeling insecure, puts up a lightning rod to protect his house; so is the man who cannot handle alcohol in a rational manner equally justified in taking a pledge and attaching himself to a temperance society. There he will have an opportunity with the others to put himself on exhibition as a weakling and a person without moral strength or resolution, but he has no right to denounce alcohol because of his weakness any more than he should a lamp-post which he was unfortunate enough to run foul of when under his potation."

Locating the Responsibility.

IN HIS SPEECHES in the Ohio campaign Senator Hanna has been confiding to his hearers some of the secret history of last winter's session of congress. Concerning the Democratic attitude in the United States senate toward the treaty of peace with Spain which our commissioners brought from Paris he says: "It only wanted the ratification of the United States senate to settle the whole question. The treaty was reported favorably by the committee on foreign relations. Now, if the Democratic leaders in that body had been as loyal as they professed to be during the contest with Spain, and I have never questioned their loyalty at that time; but if they had been steadfast in their loyalty they would not have descended to the low down trick of trying to make politics out of the most important situation connected with the war. Immediately after the treaty was reported to the senate they had their caucus and they determined that they would oppose the ratification of it in order to bring about the destruction of the Republican party and put it in a hole. They intended to oppose our government in the final settlement of that all important question and they intended to create political capital out of the delay, hoping that things might within a reasonable time transpire, and things did transpire, which brought embarrassment and bloodshed to our country. I want to say here, and I will say it with my last breath, that as a result of that opposition the leaders of the Democratic party and all who supported them are responsible for every drop of blood that has been shed in the Philippines since that time. There never would have been an attack upon the boys in blue if that treaty had been ratified promptly."

Here is a deliberate statement made by a responsible senator of the United States who was in a position to know whereof he affirms. Dare the Democrats deny it? Can they disprove it?

Colonel Bryan says that "three years have justified the assertions made by the Democratic party in 1896." Let us see. Three years ago the Democratic party asserted that the only way to bring prosperity back was to resume the free coinage of silver, otherwise money would become scarce, and business more depressed. The money in circulation in the United States has mean-

time increased from \$1,500,000,000 to nearly \$2,000,000,000; the per capita of money in circulation from \$21.18 to nearly \$25; the gold in circulation from \$464,000,000 to about \$750,000,000; the exports of manufactures from \$25,000,000 to \$338,000,000 a year, and the total exports from \$82,000,000 to \$1,272,000,000 per annum. If this justifies Democratic predictions of 1896, the country will listen with equanimity to more of the same sort in 1900.

What Republican wants to see the court house in the hands of the Democracy? The way to prevent that is to get out and hustle.

A Strange Fact.

IF WHAT was said recently by Judge Paul of the United States court for the Western district of Virginia is true—it sounds incredible—congress in one respect has been strangely careless. The case which called forth the utterance we are about to quote was that of a "moonshiner" on trial for killing a deputy collector of internal revenue. Sentence of fine and imprisonment was passed and in pronouncing it the judge said:

"That for murder no higher punishment can be inflicted under the federal statutes than imprisonment for a limited period at hard labor. In a republic the only civilized government in the world that sends forth its officers to execute its laws practically without protection, and when they are murdered in obeying its mandates provides no adequate punishment for the crime. The marshal of this district, in attempting to execute a warrant of arrest for a violation of the postal laws, may be shot dead, and the only penalty provided by the statutes of the United States for the perpetrator of the crime is an insignificant fine and a paltry term of imprisonment, under the statute for obstructing process or assaulting an officer. The judge of this court, while pronouncing this sentence, might by some one in the audience be assassinated, and the only charge that could be brought against the murderer would be under the statute intended to prevent the administration of justice. The chief justice of the Supreme court of the United States is by law one of the circuit judges of this circuit. Were he holding the circuit court here, and some dissatisfied litigant should take his life, the only punishment that could be found under the United States laws for the murder of the highest judicial officer in the government would be an insignificant fine or almost nominal imprisonment in jail, or both, for impeding the court in the discharge of its duties."

If this is an accurate statement of the existing federal laws, it follows that the next congress should promptly supply the deficiency. Not to do so would be criminal negligence.

The odds of numbers are against the British at Ladysmith; and a British reverse would not be unexpected. But it will be well to await the official reports before passing comment upon the first real battle of the South African war.

A Soldier and a Man.

From the Washington Star.

The stories of the scars carried by the late General Henry are full of interest. The story of the crippled hand is one which tells of the dangers of the rough and tumble of the frontier. In the fall of 1874, when the Cheyenne Indians were setting the frontier ablaze in the northern part of Dakota, Colonel Henry, then in command of several troops of cavalry, came upon a village of the enemy nestled among the hills. There was a brief but decisive fight, and the Indians fled toward the Canadian boundary. In the pursuit was ordered, notwithstanding the fact that the weather indications gave signs of a blizzard, which meant, in those days, that the Cheyenne would be pursued for several days. The pursuit was successful, and the Indians were driven back to their winter quarters. Colonel Henry, however, was severely wounded in the pursuit, and his hand was crippled for life. Forty-eight hours after the start, a fierce wind and hail storm sprang up, the wind sweeping across the plains with the fury of a cyclone. The pursuit became so violent that the trail was lost, and the troops rode blindly through the blizzard. Presently one of the subordinate officers, who had been ordered to go on ahead to the head of the straggling troops, that day passed, and another morning dawned, but still the pursuit continued in the face of the biting, piercing gale which swept down from the north with unabated fury. Before noon of that day several of the horses gave out, dropping before the icy blast like stricken deer. At dark a number of packs were abandoned to provide mounts for those who had lost their animals. Finally, a brief rest was called, and after many failures, a fire was started and coffee made. When orders were given to resume the march the surgeon accompanying the expedition went to Colonel Henry and reported that five of the troopers were suffering with badly frozen feet.

"Help me off with this glove," replied the intrepid cavalry leader, extending his left hand. The surgeon wonderingly obeyed the order, and in a moment the gauntlet, he cried: "It is stiff. Your hand is frozen, sir."

"Mount, men," ordered Colonel Henry calmly. And as the cavalcade prepared to obey the command it was found necessary to assist him to his saddle. On through the snow and sleet, on until the wintry sun rising over the eastern hills proclaimed the coming of day, rode the little party of soldiers. There were many struggles, many hardships, many a soldier's hand and foot were numb and almost unconscious upon the necks of their mounts, but none failed to follow that started in the advance. When day finally broke a number of black specks were seen moving over the crest of a ridge a mile in advance. "They are the Cheyennes," exclaimed Colonel Henry, "and that ridge marks the boundary line between Canada and the United States. We can go no further."

The memory of the retreat back to shelter will be as a blank page to most of the party. To the memory of the troops stumbled painfully into the welcome gates of the fort, bearing with them twenty-one of their number frozen almost within the grasp of death. Colonel Henry kept command until he saw his men in safety again, then he took to his bed and hovered between life and death for many weary hours. Finally arising with his left hand crippled and his constitution so broken that he reported as unfit for further duty. But he was in harness again after a brief rest.

Scars that showed bullet holes that had been made in each cheek also involve a story of the rough and tumble of the frontier. To the memory of the war with General Henry in '73 these scars recalled the famous expedition against the Sioux in the Big Horn and Yellowstone country, when the troops gave the hostiles a lesson they did not soon forget. In that expedition Colonel Henry was in charge of the Second Battalion of the Fifth Cavalry, which formed part of General Crook's command. One June morning, while the troops were camping for breakfast in a little ravine, the Cheyennes rushed back with the startling announcement that the Sioux were coming in force. There was hardly time to get "boots and saddles" when the heights about the valley swarmed with the savages. Within twenty minutes a regular pitched battle was in progress, the Indians, of whom there were several thousands, coming down from the ridge in a series of desperate charges.

During the height of the combat one portion of the American line, under Captain Vroom, was pushed out beyond its support, and was being punished severely by the hostiles getting between it and the main body. Colonel Henry, seeing the peril threatening his brother officer, sent his command pell-mell to the rescue. Just as he was about to lead the Indians, with uplifted sabers, a flying bullet struck Colonel Henry in the face, tearing through both cheeks, breaking the bridge of his nose, and completely severing the left optic nerve.

The force of the wild rush carried him on, but he was seen to sway in the saddle. A trooper caught him and held him hoarsely. "Are you struck, sir?" Grip ping the pompadour tightly with one hand, Colonel Henry tried to wave his sword. "On, on," he gasped. "Down under the galloping hoofs of the combatants he lurched, and in an instant he was lost to sight in the swirling dust.

The loss of their leader caused a temporary panic among the soldiers, but they soon rallied, and, after driving off the Indians, they searched for their general. He was found at last, covered with blood, but as they tenderly picked him up they saw that life still remained in the bruised body. He was placed upon a blanket in the shade, and everything possible done to aid him. It was then that one of the other officers consoled him by saying, "Colonel, this is too bad. It is too bad." And it was then that the gallant Henry, suffering untold agony and barely able to articulate, whispered only:

"It's nothing, Jack. It's what we are here for."

It was long before he recovered, but when he finally returned to active service he carried with him the indelible proofs of gallantry and daring in actual battle. The same quiet heroism carried him through weeks of weary battling with the torturing pains of a Porto Rican fever, a struggle which sapped his strength and wearying him in a way which he calmly and quietly replied to his physicians' orders to leave at once. "No, Here I stay, where I have been sent."

LIFE INSURANCE.

Editor of the Tribune—Sir: I notice you say in this morning's Tribune that you are willing to have the life insurance correspondence continued along the lines of the information it must not become ill-natured. This warning was no doubt thought necessary on account of the last sentence in Mr. Betts' letter which appears in today's issue in answer to mine which appeared Saturday morning. I consider the sentence referred to as beneath the dignity of a gentleman of Mr. Betts' standing. I will only say in reference to it that my letter was no more in the nature of an advertisement of the two companies referred to than the letter which appeared in the Tribune of last Friday morning, of the "three giants." He says his comparisons between the gifts and the forty smaller companies were distinctly misleading and unreliable and if so why did he use them?

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used only two ratios in said letter and they were obtained by dividing the net gain to policy holders by the premiums paid by them, anyone can prove for himself whether the figures are correct or not and challenge Mr. Betts to point out any material mistake in them. He seems to be unable to comprehend the meaning of the word "held" as applied to the assets of the companies January 1, 1899. I venture to say that 99.9 per cent. of the readers of the Tribune understand it perfectly, but for the benefit of the general manager of the New York Life Insurance company for North-eastern Pennsylvania, I will say that the word refers to the total assets of the companies at the date given and includes such items as the reserve on all policies as required by the laws of Pennsylvania and other states; the amounts required to meet all outstanding claims reported and unpaid, etc., and the accumulated surplus to be returned as profits or dividends when due. In fact, the assets "held" by the companies at any time represent their entire income up to that date from premiums, interest on investments, rents, etc.; less amounts paid for death claims, endowments, dividends, surrenders and lapsed policies, annuities, expenses and taxes, as stated in my letter of the 27th inst. If this explanation is not satisfactory to the general manager of the New York Life Insurance company for North-eastern Pennsylvania, I respectfully refer him to the "A B C of Life Insurance" published by the Spectator Company of New York.

Mr. Betts refers to the statements in my letter of the 27th inst. as "old straw," etc. Well, some of it is not so very old after all, as it includes the crop of 1898, the last available. I claim it is a fair and comprehensive statement of the management of the six companies referred to and any one holding annual dividend policies in these companies can substantiate its truthfulness from his own experience. If Mr. Betts or any reader of the Tribune doubts this he can find abundance of proof right here in Scranton.

Volume of business appears to be the only point worth considering by Mr. Betts and while all companies should be progressive, quality and not quantity, should have first place in the management of all companies. If the three smaller companies referred to in my letter of the 27th inst. had been as extravagant in their management as the "three giants" during, we will say, the past twenty or twenty-five years, they might have increased the volume of their business vastly. They might have gone to the ends of the earth to secure risks as the giants have done, but how would all this have benefited the American policy holders; how would it have served the best interests of the policy holders of Scranton? I respectfully ask Mr. Betts to show by actual facts in what respect the enormous business of the giants has reduced the cost of insurance to the individual policy holder as compared with the cost in the other companies named.

What the people want are facts, not mere assertions. Let us have the facts, Mr. Betts, let us have 'em.—A. L. Duncan. Scranton, October 30.

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Ornamental Floors, such as we offer have been in use in Europe for generations. They are no experiment.

It is safe to consider that no outlay will so furnish and enrich a dwelling as these ornamental floors. They are cheaper than carpets.

Floors laid and finished in best manner.

Fine line of patterns to select from.

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This is Institute Week and the city is full of Teachers. Welcome—all of them. Make the Big Store your shopping headquarters. Lounge and leisure in our Reception Rooms. Listen to the music in our Basement. Eat in our elegantly appointed Restaurant. You'll not be asked to buy. No one will question your right to be here. Store is as free as the air.

50-Cent Books for 15 Cents

This lot of books was purchased by us expressly for sale during Institute Week, at a special price. They are handy volume size, elegantly bound in various styles of covers, some handsomely illustrated—and the following admirable titles to choose from. Only a thousand in the lot—so come early for them:

- Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin. John Ploughman's Talk. John Ploughman's Pictures. Kept for the Master's Use. Kilmippel. Lays of Ancient Rome. The Lady of the Lake. Lalla Rookh. Last Days of Ella. Light of Asia. The Line Upon Line. Lowell's Poems. Manifesto of Christ. The Manon Lescaut. Message of Peace. The Morning Thoughts. My Point of View. Phantom Rhinoceros. Plain Tales from the Hills. Princess and Maid. Poe's Poems. Pathway of Safety. Pathway of Promise. Peep of Day. Precept Upon Precept. Queen of the Air. Rab and His Friends. Romance of a Poor Young Man. Sentimental Journey. A. Steps Into the Blessed Life. The Throne of Grace. Thoughts, Marcus Aurelius. Two Years Before the Mast. Upline. Year of Wakenoid. The World's Poems—Vol. I. Whittier's Poems—Vol. II.

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Here is another bargain that will give you something to talk about besides lectures and school books. Large 12 mo. volumes, elaborately bound in plain blue cloth with white stampings. Printed on heavy laid paper from large clear type.

- Five titles by Hall Calne. Two titles by Mrs. Alexander. Two titles by Rosa N. Carey. Five titles by Marie Corelli. Six titles by A. Conan Doyle. Three titles by Thomas Hardy. Six titles by W. Hemingway. Two titles by Maurice Joly.

An Important Millinery Store.

Come here for no other reason than to see this Millinery Store—of which there is no copy for many miles around. Some very special attractions have been arranged for you during this week. Second floor.

- Children's Felt Hats in all colors at 25c. Never sold before under 25 cents. Children's Felt Hats, trimmed with white silk cord and three rows of stitching, instead of 6c. French Fur Felt Black shapes, including walking hats, short back suitors, etc. instead of 80c.—a big bargain. Children's Cloth Trim O'Shanter, bound with ribbon instead of 60c. Very special at 60c.

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General Agent for the Wyoming District.

Chafing Dishes

New arrivals—patterns that will surely please you. If you want the best, come here.

FOOTE & SHEAR CO.

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Heating, Plumbing, Gas Fitting, Electric Light Wiring, Gas and Electric Fixtures, Builders Hardware.

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FINLEY'S

The Silk Sale

of the Season

A purchase of nearly 2,000 yards enables us to offer the greatest value in up-to-date silks that that have ever been brought to this city. The lengths vary from 5 to 15 yards each, and for complete Dresses, Separate Waists or Fine Wrap Linings, are the opportunity of a lifetime.

They are arranged into 3 lots as follows