

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.

TEN PAGES.

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Both the Cuban and South African wars have demonstrated that it would be easy to map out a campaign at any time if one knew in advance just how the enemy expected to move.

Light on the Dreyfus Case.

THE VIEW taken of the Dreyfus case by the Rev. D. J. MacGouldrick in the lecture presented by him on Tuesday evening before the Newman Magazine club and reported verbatim in last evening's Truth is a most interesting one, both in its averments of fact and in the opinions offered.

The lecturer spoke of the "mutilated reports of a subsidized and partisan press" asserted that among the documents seized by the French secret service officers at the German embassy in Paris and photographed by them for the French war office were letters in the autograph of the German emperor, of such a nature that the emperor threatened to recall the German ambassador if they were made public; and offered this threat as the reason why, owing to France's unpreparedness for a war with Germany, the secret evidence against Dreyfus was not divulged beyond the inner circle of the French government and the judges of trial.

The lecturer followed this with scathing criticisms of the anti-Catholic influences in French politics, to whom he credits the degradation of France; and expressed pity that the public opinion of both England and the United States should have been, as he implied, fooled and betrayed upon the general issues of justice involved in the Dreyfus affair.

It might be wondered how the Rev. Father MacGouldrick should happen to possess such superior sources of information. He says his knowledge of the Dreyfus testimony was derived from stenographic reports published in "Financiere" of Paris. He is not the only man capable of reading the Financiere reports and translating them into good English. Yet the American Associated Press, which had accomplished French scholars serving as its reporters at Rennes, all the leading English papers, who were represented with similar efficiency, and dozens of independent agencies of information were, it seems, either fooled or guilty of distorting the news reports which they supplied to English-speaking readers.

The gravity of such an arrangement of the press doubtless was present in the lecturer's mind; and it is reasonable to assume that he is prepared to substantiate his remarks with credible proof.

Dr. Leyds' telephone seems to be out of order.

Vice Admiral.

HERE, IN THE FORM of an extract from a letter by Colonel McClure printed in the Philadelphia Times is an example of how the Schley clique delights to mix things up:

The administration exhausted its power, even to the extent of repeated defamatory abolition of the secretary, to have Sampson accepted as the hero of Santiago; but the senate daily grew stronger in its support of Schley, and later, when the president was compelled to reverse the action of Schley and Sampson by nominating Schley as the senior, they were unanimously confirmed.

Colonel McClure would be unfit to draw another penny's salary in the newspaper business if he did not know, when he penned the foregoing, that the president never "reversed" the positions of Schley and Sampson after he nominated Sampson to be Schley's senior; the naval personnel law simply made it appear so. That law abolished the grade of commodore and created two grades of rear admirals, senior and junior. Schley having been a commodore when Sampson was only a captain, Sampson's rise to the rank of commodore, which occurred in the regular sequence shortly before the naval personnel bill was enacted, put him junior to Schley as commodore, and with the abolition of the rank of commodore Sampson became a junior and Schley a senior rear admiral. Had the president's nomination been confirmed, both Schley and Sampson would be senior rear admirals, with Sampson ranking Schley as befitted the circumstance that Sampson, throughout the war, in more senses than one, was Schley's superior officer.

The president's nominations were sent to the senate prior to the passage of the personnel act, at a time when it was not sure that this very just measure, so long urged upon congress unsuccessfully, would succeed. The president's nominations were distinctly offered as special rewards for extraordinary service in war. The advancements effected by the personnel act were entirely routine and had no connection with the war. If these special rewards, which failed at the last session of congress owing to a hold up in the senate by the ostensible friends of Schley, are to be renewed at the forthcoming session, there will need to be a revision in the nominations. Sampson, having progressed from a captain's rank to that of rear admiral by act of routine, in order to receive special distinction, would have to be advanced at least one grade in recognition of his war service. In other words, he deserves to be made vice-admiral.

The chief chemist of the agricultural department at Washington, Dr. Wiley, testifies that upon the whole American

brewed beer is pure and wholesome. Very few of the brands put upon the market contain, says he, deleterious substances, and those who drink beer as all men drink the domestic product in freedom from the apprehension that it is laced with stomach-rotting drugs. Considering the quantity of beer consumed in this country this information is reassuring; but it supplies no reason why the temperate individual who is happy without the beer-drinking habit should undertake to convert himself into a tank.

As Others View It.

SAYS the Philadelphia Press: "Observers may deduct two facts from the famous Langstaff-Kelly election contest in Lackawanna county for the office of treasurer—first, that the law's privileges at times cause people to go to almost crazy extremes, and second, that Lackawanna's taxpayers are among the most enduring people in the state. A transcript of the evidence in this remarkable contest was filed in the clerk of the court's office at Scranton on Saturday, and it comprised 160,000 typewritten pages, or thirty-two volumes of 5,000 pages each. A calculation showed that 50,220,000 words are included in the testimony, or, to illustrate more clearly, what would be equal to about 34,000 news-print columns of the Press. Another year will yet be occupied before the contest is decided, and by that time County Treasurer Kelly's term will have expired, as he is to go out of office on December 31, 1900. Should it be otherwise, however, it is curious to note that the contestant, Mr. Langstaff, could not now take the office if it were shown that he was duly elected, as he has disqualified himself by an official engagement in the contest proceedings that the whole affair will cost Lackawanna county close to \$100,000.

The interesting feature about this notorious contest not pointed out by our contemporary consists of the fact that the contest was begun solely to gratify the suspicions of a little faction of disgruntled Republicans who thought that by means of it they could cause annoyance to political opponents in their own party. The taxpayers are made to pay for the gratification of this spleen a sum of money sufficient to have pensioned Langstaff and all his factional confidants liberally for life. Under forms of law a hold up has been committed equal to the taking of from \$2 to \$3 from every male adult in the county; and the man whose signature to Langstaff's petition made the contest possible will have good reason to applaud the generosity of the people if they are not marked for permanent public censure.

With the knowledge that the millinery song birds are in nearly every instance made of hen's feathers, wood, paint and glue, the humane societies that have objected to birds upon ladies' bonnets will be obliged to organize a crusade against fried chicken if they expect to accomplish noticeable results.

A Sensible Recommendation.

THE RECOMMENDATION of Admiral Dewey that the government build at least a dozen small but fast cruisers of exceedingly light draft, say of from 800 to 1,000 tons displacement, for use on the Asiatic station, in policing the shallow rivers, inlets, uncharted bays, etc., and capable of rapid dispatch from place to place on the shortest notice, is so manifestly sensible that congress should not be permitted to disregard it. The need of craft of this kind is well illustrated in the case of the Charleston, a much larger cruiser of deeper draft. A smaller ship could have done every service that the Charleston was doing at the time she struck the uncharted reef; and by reason of its lighter draft would be far more likely to glide over dangerous shoals in safety or, if grounded, to be floated in safety on a rising tide. In the event of the complete loss of such a vessel there would be a saving as compared with sacrifice of our more expensive warships.

There is a feeling in some quarters that little cruisers such as Dewey recommends might prove of small value in time of war; but this impression is clearly erroneous. When an American naval officer like Wainwright, with a gallant crew, can take a mere pleasure yacht with a few guns placed upon it and, rushing into the very thick of the hottest naval battle since modern armaments were invented, sink two of the fastest and most terrifying ships of the enemy as well as come safely through the general fusillade and be of exceptional use in rescuing the survivors, it is idle to measure the usefulness of a boat wholly by the number of tons of its displacement. Of course, large battleships and fast cruisers of the Brooklyn type are very necessary; but let no man turn up his nose at the little cruisers when manned by the kind of men who work in Uncle Sam's navy.

There's no question that a large number of the stars failed to shoot on schedule time.

A Move Toward Good Roads.

A CONCURRENT resolution was passed by the last legislature, and approved by the governor, providing for the appointment of a commission to prepare a road bill for presentation at the next session of the legislature. This commission has just been constituted, as follows: A. J. Casant, Philadelphia; Cyrus Gordon, Clearfield; and H. B. Beckenkamp, Natrona, appointed by the governor; N. C. Shively, Lebanon, appointed by the Farmers' alliance; ex-governor James A. Beaver, Bellefonte, appointed by the secretary of agriculture; and Hibberd B. Worrell, Philadelphia, appointed by the League of American Wheelmen.

At this time of year the need of better highways in the country districts is likely to present itself emphatically to all who have occasion to wrestle with the abominable ruts and bogs over which most of the driving in Pennsylvania has to take place in wet or slushy weather. The battle for good roads has waged merily in the press and on the lecture platform and some legisla-

tion of a continent character has been forced on the statute books; but the humiliating fact stands out vividly throughout the commonwealth that the roads themselves are very little better, save in a few favored localities, than they were when first the good roads movement took definite form. Our politicians turn our legislature from session to session into orgies of factional strife and eat up millions of the people's money in their bickering and jobbery, and the great body of the farming population, the backbone and mainstay of the state, are no better off, in the matter of highway facilities, than were their fathers and grandfathers before them.

A time must come when the intelligence of the public will refuse to be content with this costly procrastination. May the work of the present commission speed its coming.

The Russian ambassador at Washington, Count Cassini, says he cannot understand the ado which is being made over an "open door" into China. "So far as Russia is concerned," says he, "her door already stands open. The great commercial port of Tientsin has been made free to the commerce of the world, by formal proclamation. No discriminations are made against the commerce of foreign countries, and Russia enjoys no special privileges. Russia is anxious to have the world trade there." If that be true, Count Cassini will kindly urge the Russian foreign office to put its anxiety into writing, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

The area of Tutuila, Uncle Sam's new island in the Samoan group, is not three times as large as the area of the city of Scranton; and its population does not much exceed one-third that of Dunmore; but the harbor of Pago Pago, which it contains, is the best in the Pacific; is large, land-locked and easily defended from both land and sea; and when the Nicaragua canal is cut through will make a popular as well as a valuable port of call. Tutuila is all there is to the Samoan group, considered from a naval point of view.

Monroe, the Chicago bigamist, succeeded in persuading twenty-six women to marry him at different times and places in his keeping what property they possessed. Upon securing the money, Monroe invariably departed, leaving no address, and looked up another victim by matrimonial advertisements. This is but another proof that the matrimonial advertisement is something which should be regarded with suspicion at all times and should never be investigated by persons possessing money.

In consequence of a mania of stamp collectors for the special stamps provided for the use of the inhabitants of Guam, Captain Leary, governor of Guam, after supplying native wants, has sold enough souvenir stamps to net for the government a profit of \$10,000, and the rush still continues. This expansion business is turning out better than a gold mine.

Philadelphia papers claim that General Piet Joubert, commander-in-chief of the Boers, was born in the city of brotherly love. That explains, possibly, why he is slow but sure.

Japan seems anxious to repeat by means of an interview with the Russian bear the surprise given to the world in her encounter with China. It is a dangerous hazard.

The Paris exposition and the Dreyfus case passed out of mind simultaneously.

HUMAN NATURE STUDIES.

Paid for Her Curiosity.

One morning the other week a lady living in Dulwich answered the bell to find a bulky boy, with an innocent red face, and large, heavy eyes, staring at her. He explained that he wanted to see her husband, and she answered that her husband had left for his office. "Can the boy see me?" she asked. "Yes, if you come to the office in the building where he is," said the boy, as he backed down the steps. "And this morning I found a letter in the waste basket." "Well, you can leave it," she replied. "I—I think I hadn't better," he half whispured, as he showed the pink envelope. "Boy—that is—boy, let me see that letter," she said, as she advanced and extended her hand. "Oh, 'twouldn't be 'zactly right, ma'am, 'cause I know he'd give me a shilling." "Look here, boy," she said, as she felt in her pocket for the half crown left to buy coffee and tea that morning. "You take this in a basket—yes, and give a word to Mr. Smith about finding it." "I don't believe it is much of a letter," he remarked, as he handed it over. "Never mind, hand it over; here's your money!" "I raps there ain't a word of writing in it, ma'am." "Here, give me the letter; now go!" She took it and entered the house, and the boy with the flapping ears flew down the street, the letter in his hand. In about 40 seconds the woman came out, says Pearson's Weekly, looked up and down the street, and the expression on her mouth was not happy and peaceful.

The boy had seemed to doubt that there was any writing inside of the envelope, but she was not quite prepared to let it open and find a typewritten document commencing: "Whereas, default having been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage," etc. She wants to hold just one more interview with the lad.

Dewey to Be Dined Again.

Admiral Dewey will, after all the many public testimonies that he has received, be given a grand dinner by his old friends at the Metropolitan club. The occasion will be one rising to historical importance, says the Washington correspondence of the Philadelphia Ledger, as the sequel and twin affair to a dinner given him at the same club the night before he left Washington two years ago to take command of the Asiatic squadron. No naval officer who ever left Washington got such a send off as George Dewey received, and it culminated in a dinner at the Metropolitan club on the night of Nov. 17, 1897. Every guest was a host except Dewey himself, and during the evening the toastmaster, Major Archibald Hopkins, clerk of the court of claims, read some original verses which contained a prophecy that has surpassed many others in the way of coming true. It is well worth reproducing: Fill your glasses full tonight; The wind is off the shore; And he'll be fast or be it light, We pledge the Commodore.

Through days of storm, through days of calm, On broad Pacific seas, And anchor off the Isles of Palm, Or with the Japanese.

Ashore, adrift, on decks below, Or where the bulwarks creak, To back a friend or breast a foe We'll pledge the Commodore!

We know our honor'll be sustained Where'er his pennant flies; Our rights respected and maintained, Whatever Power defies.

And when he takes the homeward tack, Beneath an Admiral's flag, We'll hail that day that brings him back, With huzzas and a hurra!

There can be no doubt about these being another "Jug" at the Metropolitan club unless Mrs. Dewey shall object.

Luggage Arrived First.

As a train was moving out of a Scotch station a man in one of the compartments noticed that the porter, in whose charge he had given his luggage, had not put it into the van, and so shouted at him and said:

"Oh, you old fool, what do you mean by not putting my luggage in the van?" To which the porter replied: "Eh, man! yer luggage is ne'er such a fool as yerse!" Yer f' the wrong train!" —London Answers.

Getting Acquainted.

A Ravenswood man tells this story about a friend of his whose business takes him away from home frequently:

"For the last month or so he has had a respire, and his neighbors have noticed the usual length of his visit at his own house. One of them asked him recently if he had got pretty well acquainted with the members of his family. "I think I am making an impression," he responded. "My little girl went to her mother the other day and said: 'That man who comes here sometimes spanked me today.'"—Chicago News.

He Found It.

"Did you ever know your husband to find anything where you told him to look for it?" said Mrs. Dimpington to Mrs. Atterbury.

"Never but once," said Mrs. Witherby. "But I don't consider it was a fair trial. 'Oh, do tell me.' 'I told him to look in one of my pockets in my wardrobe for a smelling bottle that was wrapped up in a hundred-dollar bill papa had given me for my birthday, and he found it in three minutes.'"

A Serious Complication.

In the mountains of East Tennessee the natives, or rather the lower circle of natives, take many liberties with the Queen's English, and one of the practices in that region tells of an incident illustrative of this. He had a patient who was being nursed by a friend. One day the doctor called and said to the nurse: "Well, Jim, how is Bill?" "Bill air mighty bad today, Doc," Jim responded. "His whole nervous system seems to be in a perfect strangle."—Memphis Schmitz.

Heartily Approved the Color.

When the Queen's statue in the New Zealand capital was unveiled by Lord Harewood, the present was more pleased than the Marquis. Their first exclamation was "Aue!" and then when they looked, critically, upon the ample bronzed proportions of Her Gracious Majesty, and noted her copper-colored features, they said: "All right, all the same as ourselves. She is one of us."

CURRENT VERSE.

Life.

Sad is our youth, for it is ever going, Crumbling away beneath our very feet; Sad is our life, for onward it is flowing In current unperceived, because so fleet; Sad are our hopes, for they were sweet In sowing— But tares, self-sown, have overtopped the wheat; Sad are our joys, for they were sweet in blowing— And still, oh, still, their dying breath is sweet.

And sweet is youth, although it hath left us, Of that which made our childhood sweeter still; And sweet is middle life, for it hath left us, A nearer good to cure an older ill; And sweet are all things, when we learn to prize them.

Not for their sake, but His who grants them, them or denies them. —Aubrey De Vere.

The Measles.

When I had the measles—year ago— Ma she said, "Now, Willie, dear, you know You've got the measles, so you must be good. And stay indoors as all sick children should." Gee, I was good; the fellows used to call An' yell for me, but I wouldn't get at all. Because I had the measles, Jes' broke out As speckled as a turkey egg, about.

An' ma she fed me on ras'berry jam. An' I must have for company, an' Sam— Sam, he's my brother—didn't get none. Cake An' chicken pie an' all good things she'd had. But bread an' butter'n' bacon, like Sam had. I didn't, 'cause my appetite was bad. Oh, mother! was too good for me, you know, When I had the measles—year ago.

An' sometimes, when ma said I could, I took The great big fam'ly bible down to look At pictures—Moses in the rushes, Jes' A little baby in a basket—yes, An' David choppin' up the gi-lint. Then There was old Daniel in the lions' den, With growlin' lions, crouchin' in the dark, Ten times as many as at Lincoln park.

When I had the measles—year ago— Gee, I lived high; an' one day Sam, 'em he blubbered some because he'd had 'em once; An' I felt sorry, Pa says he's a dunce, But I guess not for thinkin' for him that All locked up tight, I quite agree with Sam— Worst thing 'bout havin' measles is that You've had 'em once you never can again. —Edward M. Wilson, in Chicago Record.

Don't Blame the World.

Don't blame the world because the thorns are found among the roses; The day that breaks in storm may be all sunshine when it closes. We cannot hope to always meet with fortune's fond caressing, And that which seems most hard to bear may bring with it a blessing. That buried seed must rot in earth ere it produce the flower. And the weak plant that frailty must have withereth in the sun and shadow; So man, to gain development, must struggle with life's crosses. And view with calm philosophy his trials and his losses.

A deadly poisonous weed may yield a salve of surrent healing; Nothing of its sect; The sweetest blossom may be poisonous here, although its bane concealing. Things are not always what they seem, but still, 'twas heaven designed them, And we should class them all as good and take them as we find them.

Little we know of this brief life, and nothing of its sect; Then let us take in humble trust all that may seem unequal. God's ways are not our ways, and He should control the destinies of men; All that is wrong in His good time will surely be adjusted. —Hawke's Bay (New Zealand) News.

NUBS OF KNOWLEDGE.

Carp are supposed to live for 300 years at least. The largest glass bottle plant in the world is located at Alton, Ill. Eggs of the trout may be kept for six days and then successfully fertilized. Lumber exports from the United States will amount this year to nearly \$50,000,000. The original cost of caviar has risen from \$9 a keg in 1890 to \$109 a keg this year.

The supreme court of the state of Michigan has decided that women cannot hold elective offices. Instances are known where the pollen of one tree have fertilized the flowers of another five miles away.

The United States is now producing more than a third of all the iron and steel made in the world. Jacksonville, Fla., has a successful orange family the only one in the United States outside of California.

The London Chronicle estimates that 6,000 of the 14,000 parish churches in England are inclined toward ruin. Missouri chickens to the number or amount of 365,000 pounds have been ordered by the British war department.

The Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul's annual statement shows that \$2,132 was expended in internal revenue stamp taxes during the year. Belgium has the largest amount of railroad in comparison with its total area, the amount being 22.2 miles to each square mile of area.

In the first seven months of 1899, England imported from the United States \$2,207,553 more silver than in 1898, and France \$688,439 more. Austrian returns indicate that there are in that country 1,501 persons whose income exceeds 40,000 florins a year, and who are, therefore, rated as millionaires.

Canada's exports of butter to England are rapidly increasing. This year, in August, 25,411 boxes have been shipped, as compared with a total of 14,611 in 1898.

Fewer deaths are caused by mining accidents now than in 1855, although at the present time there are two and a half times as many people employed underground.

Preparations are soon to be made for the removal to Arlington cemetery of the dead from the battleship Maine, who were buried in Cristobal Colon cemetery, in Havana.

The Osages are probably the richest people per capita in the world. Each one of them, man, woman and child, has 500 acres of good land and receives \$2 from the government four times a year.

Lady Smith, the town upon which the eyes of the world are now turned, gets her supplies introduced by tubconsists as an additional attraction to customers. Any one who buys a cigar may, if he desires, speak over the tobaccoist's instrument.

It will require 50,000 enumerators to take the census of the United States in June next, for it must be completed by the first of July. That means that about 75,000,000 people must be recorded in thirty days, or at the rate of 2,500,000 a day.

In Germany, as in many other European countries, there is a rule that no more people shall ride on street cars than can find seats. Consequently, if a car is full, if a woman gets on and if a man gives the woman his seat, the man is ejected.

Already arrangements are being made by the English tourist agents to conduct parties to Oberammergau next year, the famous Passion Play having been fixed to commence on April 21. It will last, as usual, till the end of September. Since 1823, with only slight remodeling, this mystery or miracle performance has been performed by village peasants in the Bavarian highlands every ten years.

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