

The Scranton Tribune Published Daily, Except Sunday, by The Tribune Publishing Company, at Fifty Cents a Month.

New York Office: 155 Nassau St., S. S. VREELAND, Sole Agent for Foreign Advertising.

Entered at the Postoffice at Scranton, Pa., as Second-Class Mail Matter.

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.

TWELVE PAGES. SCRANTON, NOVEMBER 18, 1899.

No wonder that Aguinaldo chafes himself, now that he has been deserted by the Scranton, Penna. Times.

The Water Question. THE DISCUSSION of the water question in another column by Mr. Gould, the hydraulic engineer, considers simply the reasons in favor of the use of meters.

The criticism heard against the Scranton Gas and Water company, as we understand it, does not aim at the meter system, but at the rate charged.

The Only Way. HERE CAN BE no gainsaying of the proposition advanced by Mr. Hannah in yesterday's issue that the multiplication of new laws relating to election crookedness will be ineffective in reducing fraud unless reinforced strongly by public opinion.

The situation alleged in Philadelphia exists by grace of the honest citizens who surrender the running of politics unto questionable characters.

There is no patent remedy. The men who say there is are like the quack doctors who promise miraculous cures of disease.

An Important Principle. THE WASHINGTON STAR credits to Admiral Dewey the remark that if Leonard Wood had been in command at Manila there would have been no war.

Copyright Kinks. SOME TIME AGO Lord Rosebery, the English statesman, collected for publication in book form a number of speeches which he had delivered at various times.

It is to be hoped that sympathy for the Boers will not spread to an extent which will inaugurate a relief fund enterprise in the way of amateur theatrical entertainments.

promoted over the heads of general officers." General Wood, very fortunately, is not the only good man in Cuba and it would not necessarily follow, should he not be made civil governor, that Cuba would be poorly governed by the man of the president's final selection.

On this day, if the schedule is carried out, a man will assume a flag command in the United States navy who stands accused by the head of that navy of disobedience of orders, of insubordination and of falsification of the correspondence of a brother officer.

TOLD BY THE STARS. Daily Horoscope Drawn by Ajaachus, The Tribune Astrologer. Astrolabe Cast: 4:08 a. m., for Saturday, Nov. 18, 1899.

An Excellent Example. UNCLE JOHN WANAMAKER and his friends have already trimmed their dark lanterns and are holding secret anti-Quay meetings in Philadelphia.

The Water Question. Editor of The Tribune:—Sir: I find that Scranton is going through an experience similar to that which sooner or later overtakes all our large American cities in regard to their water supply.

The first essential point in settling upon a system of rates for water is that it should be an equitable one. It is by no means fair that one person should be required to pay a larger amount of water for the same quantity as another.

The only way in which this result can be accomplished is by the use of the meter, by which each consumer is charged for what he takes. It is to be observed, however, that the use of the meter is not sufficient.

Another great advantage of the meter system is that it checks waste. It is, in fact, the only certain way of preventing waste. Waste benefits no one and is a distinct public injury.

exact transcription of spoken language, has no property in the transcription which has been given to the public, the proprietor's interest, if there be any, residing in the original author.

The point is more curious than important, but it is well that these conflicts do not occur frequently in the United States, otherwise many men holding high reputations as orators would be caught red-handed in the most audacious cribbing, both of ideas and of language.

A suspicion is dawning upon the minds of some of the Dewey president makers that the admiral is not entitled to classification in the "easy" list.

For a dead man, General Piet Joubert seems to be pretty much alive.

The strongest and most convincing argument in favor of the meter system is that its use is becoming more and more extended every day all over the country.

General Sheridan destroyed so many supplies going forward from Richmond to Lee's men in the Wilderness, in 1862, that for a while the latter were in danger of starvation.

A prominent New York lawyer is noted for his ready answers and skill in repartee. When a young practitioner he appeared before a pompous old judge who took offense at a remark the lawyer made criticizing his decision.

During the progress of the battle at Spottsylvania court house, General Lee was watching the formation of his troops when bullets from the enemy's guns struck the ground close about him.

In a neat volume of 424 pages Rev. E. Edwards, of 68 Tighman street, Allentown, formerly of Minersville, Schuyl- county, has recently published the essay which took the Bow prize offered at the World's fair celebrated in Chicago, in 1893.

A Corner of the West is the title of the new novel by Miss Edith Henrietta Portra of Mr. Hugo as the favorite piece among the numerous other portraits in the volume we note those of Hon. H. M. Edwards, Hon. Morgan B. Williams, and James C. Conner.

The Reminiscences of a Very old Man, 1808-1867, is the quaint life which the distinguished orator, the late John Sartain, gave to the attractive volume soon to be published by the Appletons.

Mr. Sartain was born in London, where as a boy he witnessed the peace jubilee, and saw many picturesque phases of old London and its life which have since disappeared. He studied under Varley and Richter, and began to engrave in Otley's school. In this country his associations were literary as well as artistic.

Teaching in this country is so largely dependent upon the text books used, that publishers have an important place in all efforts for the improvement of education.

Private Smith, of the Royals; the velvet and a slat-black sky; Hillsols of mud, brick-red with blood, and a prayer-half curses-to die.

Private Smith, of the Royals; a torrent of freezing rain; A hall of frost on a life half lost; despair and a grinding pain.

Private Smith, of the Royals, self-sounding his funeral knell; A burning throat that each gasping note scrapes raw like a broken shell.

Private Smith, of the Royals; the blush of a dawning day; The fading mist that the sun has kissed—the best Red Cross like an angel in the trail of the men who slay.

But Private Smith, of the Royals, gazed up at the soft blue sky—The rose tined morn like a babe new born and the sweet-soured birds on high.

With a neck of red on his pallid lip and a film of white on his eye.—Herbert Cadett, in London Chronicle.

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