

The Scranton Tribune

Published Daily, Except Sunday, by The Tribune Publishing Company, at Fifty Cents a Month. New York Office: 150 Nassau St., A. 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 it is not to be understood that its publication, by the writer's real name.

SCRANTON, NOVEMBER 30, 1899.

As a result of the activities of a Taxpayers' association which took steps to plug the leaks in the county treasury, the costs collected in Schuylkill county on cases tried before the criminal court have risen from about \$250 last year to nearly \$300 this year while in many directions substantial economies have been enforced.

Thanksgiving Day.

FOR PERSONAL blessings every day should be a thanksgiving day; on this especial occasion we properly take pause to meditate upon the benefits, advantages and opportunities confronting us collectively.

In a material sense the prospect may well awaken the liveliest sentiments of satisfaction and gratitude. From a trying period of depression the American people have emerged into a fulness of prosperity far in excess of their wildest dreams.

With cessation of hostilities against Dewey, the question naturally comes to mind: Who will be the next target for the yawning yellows?

Harper and Brothers.

IN THE embarrassments which have overtaken it the great publishing house of Harper & Brothers will have the substantial sympathy of all friends of American literature together with fervent hopes for a speedy rehabilitation.

It is fortunate in having lenient creditors who share with J. Pierpont Morgan the opinion that its downfall would be "a national calamity." It is also fortunate in having at its head, in Colonel Harvey, a business man courageous enough to face facts and act in accordance with their prompting.

The Currency Caucus Bill.

THE CONSERVATISM of the Republican caucus currency bill will doubtless expedite its passage at the coming session by not provoking the antagonisms which would beset a more radical proposition.

and will increasingly commend itself to intelligent popular judgment.

Another feature likely to recommend it is the provision increasing the bank-note privilege to the par of deposited bonds and substituting for the present one per cent. tax on bank circulation a one-tenth of one per cent. franchise tax, the value of the bank's franchise being determined by its capital, surplus and undivided profits.

General Miles still adheres to his belief that the regular army of the United States on a normal basis should be not less than 65,000 strong, or about one trained soldier for each thousand of population.

Work That Counts.

IN THE ADDRESS presented recently to the president by the delegation representing the Cuban Planters' and Farmers' association were grouped some figures which strikingly exhibit the waste through which Cuban agriculture and industry passed as a result of the insurrection against Spain.

That the sources of wealth in the island of Cuba had been drained out to almost exhaustion when the period of American occupation began is a fact, says the address, "which admits of no dispute. The sugar crop, which had been 1,054,214 tons in 1894, and 1,094,264 tons in 1895, suddenly fell down, thanks to the insurgents' torch, to 345,126 tons in 1896, 262,434 tons in 1897, and 228,888 tons up to August, 1898.

Secretary Hay is credited with the ambition to bring about, at least informally, a better understanding among the great nations with respect not only to the political and commercial future of China, but also in reference to diplomatic interests in general.

The Postal Deficit.

ONE OF THE things which must in fairness be said of Hon. John Wanamaker is that he made an efficient postmaster general. The business acumen which he brought into play upon the problems of that office imparted an impetus which has not yet died down.

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portance from the fact that the railroads have lately put in a claim for a higher rate of pay, hoping by this ruse to avert the threatened battle in the next congress for a reduction of their contracts.

The chief will ask for his heron plume. His people will hear his calls; Their battle songs will ride the blast, They'll beat their tom-toms 'neath the moon.

The Black Terror.

A general uprising of the Basutos is feared. [The Globe, Nov. 6.] Every nation in civilization will tremble in homes and walls; The encircled babe will writhe and cry, The nursing mother will sob and sigh.

England's Trade with U.S.

From the Philadelphia Press. Whatever may be said of the governmental or purely political questions which affect our relations with England, there are solid reasons why, for commercial reasons, we should continue to maintain with that country the magnificent trade connection which so long existed.

Personalities.

M. J. O'Connell, who died in Hartford, Conn., recently, was in his youth hailed as an artist of the first order, and it is a little boy out there who blunderingly marked, "You can sing near than my pop can whistle on his fingers."

The Sunset of the Year.

In richer hues than Tyrian dyes could lend, You wooded hill by Autumn's touch is dressed; Where golden birch and silver poplar blend.

How Foolish of Him.

"Dear," said Mrs. Youngwife, "those table castles speak terribly. I wish when you come home tonight you would bring me some oil for them." "What kind of oil, castor oil, of course?" New York Press.

CURRENT VERSE.

Thanksgiving. A tear or two, a prayer or two, For the dead that have gone before us; Pure thoughts that stray from the world away.

NUBS OF KNOWLEDGE.

Cannibalism is still indulged in by aboriginal Australians. U to U present year the Philadelphia city hall has cost \$2,000,000, and it is not finished.

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The golden lights in wondrous splendor lie, Ere winter comes, of stern and rugged will. And Autumn whispers to the world good-by; But ere the song of mountain stream be stilled, And russet robes give place to ermine drap, Again in earth with Summer's presence filled, And Nature's heart with joyous whippers thrills.

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Office Supplies Our Specialty. 139 Wyoming Ave HOTEL JERMYN.



I am forty-four years of age, a native of New York City, but living now in Texas. Have no occupation, but live with my son, who is a "ranchman." The diet being so different in every way to what I have always been accustomed brought on severe attacks of indigestion.