

The Scranton Tribune

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

New York Office: 10 Nassau St. W. H. WRELAND, 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 events, but its rule is that these must be signed, for publication, by the writer's real name.

SCRANTON, DECEMBER 4, 1899.

General Wood ridicules the talk of an outbreak in Cuba. In the case of Cuba, as in other instances, the testimony of the man upon the spot generally disagrees with the long range theories of yellow journalism.

Work Before Congress.

UNUSUAL interest is attached to the first session of the fifty-sixth congress, which begins today, not only on account of the many complicated questions that await its decision, but from the prospect that for the first time since the close of the fifty-first congress the Republican party will be in complete control of the executive and legislative departments of government.

Although the Republicans apparently had a majority in the senate at last congress, their power for effective work was neutralized by the uncertain allegiance of several senators of free silver proclivities. The new members who will become factors in the deliberations of the body at the present session are of political complexion, due to failure of the senate to elect in the states of Pennsylvania, Delaware, California and Utah.

The all-important subject pressing upon congress for consideration is the relation of the United States to the islands which have come under its control through the war with Spain. The Cubans, or part of them at least, are clamoring for the early establishment of the independent government promised to them.

The pernicious policy of leaving medical remedies, in the shape of pills or powders on verandas and at front doors should be emphatically prohibited by the board of health. It is no infrequent occurrence that serious illness among children results from devouring these preparations and more than occasionally is death recorded.

The nearness of the next presidential election will give great political significance as well as national interest to the results of the deliberations of the fifty-sixth congress, and it is encouraging to note that there are no prospects of success before the obstructionist and filibuster of the opposition, who has in past consumed much valuable time and cost this nation millions of dollars and also many lives on fields of battle.

In saving the life of Lieutenant Gilmore and his men Aguinado probably won the largest victory for himself of any during the campaign.

A Real Anti-Mormon.

IT IS SAID that through the efforts of Miss Helen Gould about twenty tons of printed matter has been sent in protest against the seating of Roberts in congress. It is almost impossible to estimate the number of people thus reached, but the most conservative places it at 5,000,000. Clergymen all over the land have been urged to preach on the subject and a countless number of responses have been devoted to religious work have been approached and a petition has been received from Japan containing the signatures of 128 Americans who declare that the attempt of the missionaries to inculcate a higher standard of morals will be greatly hampered if it is known that an avowed polygamist can sit in our national legislature.

Miss Gould has not taken up this title in the hysterical uninformed state of mind which often leads women to espouse a cause. She has spent months in accumulating knowledge of the subject, and is probably today the best authority in the world on what really constitutes Mormonism. She has a vast library devoted entirely to that religion and in

her crusade has the valuable assistance of a son of Brigham Young, who loathes the system as propagated by his father. The menacing feature of the Mormon faith she considers is to be found in the absolute belief existing that polygamy is the vital point and in the blasphemous apostolic teaching that Christ himself was a polygamist.

Reports from San Domingo indicate that the people are now dissatisfied with the administration of Jimenes. If the new president has carried out to any extent the reforms promised when he became chief executive, it is difficult to see how any cause for complaint can be fancied. Until further intelligence is received, therefore, it is safe to wager that members of the Heureaux party may have brief control of the San Domingo end of the cable.

A Purpose in Life.

THE DEATH of John I. Blair removes a personality which illustrates perhaps more significantly than any other of this period the unique character and possibilities of American civilization. Living through three generations, Mr. Blair's entire career was such as to have been a marvel in any other country but this. A poor boy with no prospects beyond those which lay before any farmer's lad, he has for the past half century been one of the richest men in the world, and in his own peculiar way has influenced national history to a marvelous degree.

He caused the waste places to bloom and his aggressive methods made homes for thousands whose children are now enjoying the results of these pioneer efforts. If the man who causes two blades of grass to grow where but one grew before is a benefactor to his race, the man whose energy spans the rivers, levels the mountains and connects all points of a vast continent by two shining bands of steel is one to whom should be accorded the respect of a nation with as much willingness as is given to the hero and the statesman.

John I. Blair's history shows the possibilities that await any young man who sets forth with a special purpose in life. He made up his mind to be rich. This ambition in itself may not be the noblest in the world, but its achievement has wrought benefit to untold multitudes. He bent every desire, every energy to that one end and succeeded, as every man must do if he concentrates his aim and efforts. But in the pursuit of wealth which was expended on his personal luxury, he has systematically aided many causes, notably that of education, which large benefactions have constantly promoted.

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Colonial Secretary Joseph Chamberlain has always been somewhat theatrical in his utterances. His famous motto to the effect that "those who sup with the devil should have long spoons" and referring to Russia will long be quoted, although it is a question whether it was ever taken very seriously except by the French people, who have flung themselves into spasms over the remark in Mr. Chamberlain's recent speech regarding the triple alliance.

The life of the good Samaritan in New York city seems to have its drawbacks. A 16-year-old messenger boy recently found a child 3 years old on the streets, evidently lost. He led the child to the bureau of information and at that place was directed to the Mulberry street police station, three blocks

away. The little one was freed out by that time and the messenger boy was obliged to carry him most of the way. But he was cheered by the thought of having performed a worthy act. Imagine his disgust when the door-man at the police station said to him, sharply, as he took the lost one away from the boy none too gently: "Here, you get out of this quick. If you go 'round pickin' up kids, the first thing you know you'll be arrested for kidnapping!" Good Samaritan Sunday school lessons in future will probably fall upon that boy like seeds upon stony ground.

The manufacture and sale of oleomargarine continues to increase, in spite of the opposition. The edibility of oleomargarine has been a subject of much discussion. The dairymen hold that the bogus butter is made of hog fat, soap grease and other unpalatable if not unwholesome materials, while the manufacturers contend that the article is but a preparation of purified tallow and is every bit as nourishing as the high-priced creamery butter. While it may be difficult to give a decision as to the truth of the arguments for and against oleomargarine, the fact that the manufacturers continue in business with increased trade seems an indication that they have the best of the debate so far as the masses are concerned.

Eastern cotton manufacturers have been enjoying the benefits of increased orders and high prices for over a year, but the first announcement of the advance of wages has just been made. On Dec. 11 about 28,000 operators will receive an increase of 10 per cent. in wages. This advance should have been made months ago, but as the old adage intimates, "it is better late than never."

Chicago refuses to support grand opera. There is no music after all so pleasing to Chicago ears as the squeal of the fattened pig in the stock yard.

The individual who would oppose gallant Joe Wheeler's right to a seat in congress evidently has no regard for the good will of the public.

The fifty American cavalrymen who "rounded up" eight hundred Filipinos at Bayambang the other day must have been cowboy recruits.

Sanguine persons still believe that by the introduction of a cake walk at each performance grand opera can be made successful in Chicago.

HUMAN NATURE STUDIES.

Couldn't Catch the Old Man. Mr. Kuhn was thrifty in money matters and cared little for his own personal appearance.

There are, it is estimated, about 5,000 doctors in London, the quickest pianist on record. He has been known to strike as many as 1,000,000 notes in twelve hours, thereby outdoing all rivals.

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Under the Belgian law unmarried men over 25 have one vote, married men and widowers have two votes and priests and other persons of position and education have three votes. Severe penalties are imposed on those who fail to vote.

The admission fee to the Paris Exposition will be before 10 a. m. 2 francs, or about 40 cents, to the entire exhibition; between 10 a. m. and 5 p. m. on week days, 2 francs, while on Sundays the fee is not to be raised for the evening hours.

One of the most curious dresses ever made was probably that worn by a lady at a ball at Baltimore. It being entirely covered with postage stamps, the stamps, 20,000 in number, were pasted on a thin foundation and represented the postage of every civilized country.

With all his inventive genius and perfect memory, the man who has been traveling at an outside speed of sixty miles an hour, and that he cannot keep up for great distances. Yet the swallow flies slightly in the air, the gray crow (when migrating) 100; the swift 150.

Important deposits of rock salt have been found in Louisiana, and preparations are being made to develop the mines on a large scale. The deposits occupy elevations of from 30 to 50 feet above the sea level, and are known as salinas, being surrounded by low marshes.

California promises to become one of the leading manufacturing states in the union. Its backbone, the Sierra Mountains, is the home of the most powerful streams, which are being harnessed to generate electrical power thirty to forty miles for light and power purposes.

It is the opinion of a German oculist that the use of the ordinary slate by school children tends to produce shortsightedness. As a substitute he recommends the use of a special slate with black pencil. The latter have been introduced in some of the German schools.

An old monument was desired by an elderly maiden lady who died a few years ago in Athlone, Ireland. She left a fortune of \$25,000 to be spent in the erection of a monument to her husband, who had been converted into ashes and used in making the mortar for building the edifice.

A correspondent in New Zealand reports a strange dialke to the medical profession among the working classes there. Their new disease has been named "the other means have failed, and then assume a hostile attitude, refusing to give their symptoms and expecting the doctor

opened her handbag and quietly handed to her husband a bunch of letters. The typewriter had followed his instructions, but had posted all the letters on the same day.—Exchange.

Spoke Too Soon.

Isaac Parker, of Fort Smith, probably sentenced more men to be executed than any other judge who ever lived, not because he was so relentlessly severe, but because he had the hardest lot of criminals to deal with that ever came within the jurisdiction of such an official, relates a writer in the Green Bag. One day the judge looked compassionately over his spectacles at an young scamp and said: "In consideration of the youth and inexperience of this prisoner I shall let him off with a fine of \$25."

Before the judge had done speaking the very first scamp man coolly ran his hand into his trouser pocket, remarking, nonchalantly, as he did so: "That's all hunky, judge, I've got that much right here in my jeans." "And one year in the penitentiary," continued the judge. Then, looking over at the convict in a quizzical sort of a way, he added: "Do you happen to have that in your jeans?"

A Joke in Court.

The other day Judge Arnold laughed heartily at a little episode which occurred in his court, says the Philadelphia Record, and which was laughed by all who heard it. Representative John Fow was attorney for several people who had been charged with some trifling violation of the law. The real defendant was a man named Cannon, and as the matter was settled before the trial began Cannon did not think his presence necessary, and, therefore, left. As there were several others jointly accused Mr. Fow asked the court to discharge them. "Well," said Judge Arnold, briskly, "where's Cannon?" "Oh," replied the Seventeenth ward stationer, with a wink, "he just went off, and I'm trying to discharge the rest of them, although he was the big gun of the party." Judge Arnold laughed heartily at the joke, and entered into the spirit of it. "Well, Mr. Fow," he responded, "where there is so much sense and wit in the world, there must have been some firing, but as Cannon has gone off I'll discharge the rest of them for you."

Pleasure Was One-Sided.

Mandell Creighton, the bishop of London, has a horror of lending his favorite books, says a London correspondent. The bishop is a charming wit as well as a great scholar. A fellow-clergyman once visited the bishop and took a fancy to an old edition of Shakespeare. He borrowed the volume, and did not think to return it for several months. Finally the minister returned it with a letter saying: "My Dear Bishop: I have great joy in returning the volume you loaned me. The bishop answered: "My Dear Brother: All the joy is mine."

NUBS OF KNOWLEDGE.

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to find out what is the matter with them by simply looking at them. Gettysburg is now the most carefully marked battlefield in the world. Though the number of men engaged on both sides was 100,000, the position of every regiment, battery and squadron has been accurately ascertained. In addition to monuments, stones have been set to define actual positions. The position of Greater London is more than six square miles, of which about four and a half millions are accredited to inner London, and about two millions to the outer ring. The whole area is equal to a circle having a radius of nearly fifteen miles. Krupp, the great German gunmaker, recently completed a number of paper field pieces for the German infantry. Their caliber is five centimeters—a little less than two inches—and the pieces are so light that a soldier can easily carry one. Yet they are stronger than steel cannon of the same size.

THE SEATING OF QUAY.

From the Chambersburg Public Opinion. The question of seating Colonel Quay by the United States senate upon the appointment of Governor Stone is not one that is discussed or resolved in serious terms, but of national policy. For fully three-quarters of a century the senate has been averse to seating senators appointed by the state legislatures had failed to act. It often happened, in consequence, that great states like Pennsylvania, have been without full representation in the senate for one or more years. In this state, however, although there have been some bitter and prolonged contests there has been no failure to elect, where the senate either thought it necessary to make an appointment, except in the case of Quay at the recent session of the legislature. The question is not whether Colonel Quay shall be seated because he is Colonel Quay, or because a sufficient number of votes can be obtained to seat him, but whether the senate is prepared to make a precedent that will govern its action in all similar cases in the future. In any event Colonel Quay's application will deserve only a serious attention of the senate. Against it is the almost insurmountable barrier of long usage. In its favor is the important consideration that no state should be without full representation in the senate at any time. It was the duty of the legislature to elect, but it adjourned without performing this duty. If it was called together in special session it would in all probability be impotent to act. When congress meets next week the state will be represented by only one senator. The senate will be called upon to decide whether it is better to allow the vacancy to continue until the legislature acts, or to fill it by appointment until such time as the legislature shall bring it to an end by an election. It is a question for the senate solely, as affecting its own privileges, and we believe it will be decided for the best interests of the states and the country.

SONG OF THE PATRIOTIC.

From the Utica Dispatch. The citizen who has been saving two cents and losing his self-respect every time he drew money from the bank on an unstamped receipt can now slap his breast and say: "It, too, am an American!"

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A cotton-mill worker tells of some pretty expensive misery. "I am thirty-five years of age," he says, "and have been bothered with indigestion and dyspepsia about five years. Have had several doctors, but none of them ever helped me any. I spent several hundred dollars for doctors and medicines, but instead of getting better I got worse. Finally I heard of Ripans Tablets, and decided to try them. After I had used them two weeks I commenced to get better. In three months I was like a new man. I believe Ripans are the only sure cure for dyspepsia.