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When space will permit, The Tribune is always glad to print short letters from its frierds bearing on current topics but its rule is that these must be signed, for publication, by the writer's real name.

SCRANTON, DECEMBER 14, 1899.

A reference was made yesterday to an interview with President Clark of the Scranton Rallway company, in which he offered to co-operate for a viaduct on West Lackawanna avenue, but after the editorial page had closed it was found necessary to hold this interview over. It appears on another page this morning.

#### fir. Scranton "Ruffled."

N YESTERDAY'S Republican appeared the following: "President W. W. Scranton, of the Scranton Gas and Water company, was somewhat ruffled yeaterday, owing to the letter which he signed and forwarded to The Tribune for publication appearing in a changed form. Speaking to a Republican reter duly signed from a responsible par- of the obvious circumstances of the

The Standard dictionary defines the verb "garble" in this manner: "To change a document or writing usually best way to ascertain whether the edi- ner's jury say nothing on this point? for, will disclose that The Tribune's

lamented," in the phrase, "the late lamented Colonel Boles," This in no question remains to be answered why face sense perverted Mr. Scranton's mean- train 96, coming around a curve into a ing unless it saved him from an ob- station, was permitted to travel at a vious error. Colonel Boies, as events rate of speed which would have mermay prove, is neither dead nor sleep-

(2) The elision of the word "piddling" in the sentence: "Yet why rates in Scranton, with its immensely varying heights and dependent on two little piddling streams, should be invariably compared," etc. The adjective "piddto the argument.

public and official actions and politics politically) it has never yet intentionally invaded the circle of his private any contributor to do so. If this was | public's approval. "garbling" then we are guilty as indicted and proud of it. The right of editorial revision in the rejection of objectionable words, phrases and sentences not destructive of meaning or proper argument is claimed over every contributor and it will not be waived in any case. To this rule we hereby invite the most careful attention,

Mr. Scranton's opinions of the editor of The Tribune are a matter of minor account, just as are his other personal allusions. The question before the community is whether the water rates for industrial and commercial purposes are too high. If they are, they must come down. On that point we suspect there is very general agreement.

Exactly one hundred years ago this night, there passed away in Mount Vernon, Virginia, a man in whose memory posterity has erected imperishable monuments. Concerning the career of George Washington it is not necessary to speak. But how his eyes would open in pride could be awaken this morning and see the great republie as it now spans the continent and the seas.

#### Spare the Trees.

HRISTMAS time again brings a tinge of sadness when one contemplates the accompanying wanton destruction of nature's handiwork in order that the supply of "greens" for decoration may be ample to meet all demands. This year, as in past seasons, thousands of hemlock and spruce trees that have contributed to make the forest nook and dell the ideals of a poet's dream will be sacrificed that they may furnish a few hours pleasure for decorative purposes or wither unsold about the premises of some florist or shopman. It seems strange when perusing accounts regarding thousands that are being spent or will be devoted to the reclaiming of arid tracts in varibusiness which will in time, if unchecked, bring disastrous results at home is allowed to go on unnoticed save perhaps by a few thoughtful persone who are regarded by the rest of humanity as cranks.

During the past season the scarcity of water in towns up the Lackawanna valley caused much annoyance and in fact suffering. But for occasional copious rains the reservoirs could have scarcely supplied the demands for domostic uses. Public meetings were held in some instances and water companies were denounced, yet no one seems to have thought of taking steps. by legislation or otherwise to prevent the wanton destruction of the timber tracts along the banks of the Lackawanna river which in the past aided in preserving the water supply gathered from the spring and autumnal gains and the snows of winter. Everywhere along the entire length of the streton until the farms of Susquehan- | study.

ARREST TRANSPORTER PARTY.

na county are reached a scene of des- HUMAN NATURE STUDIES. WORK AMONG SOLDIERS. olation is presented indicating that the work of the lumberman, bark-poeier and fire fiend has been all too well performed. Where the morfarchs of the forest once acted as nature's cold storage,keeping moisture in the ground almost until midsummer days, the blazing rays of sunshine of early spring now fall upon a barren waste baking almost every particle of natural moisture from the earth that has no protection save that afforded by strag-

gling briars and ferns. The water question is in a state at present in the Lackawanna valley that is indeed serious, but there can be no solution other than in the encouragement of tree planting and in the protection of the few patches of woodland that remain near the headwaters of the Lackawanna river and its tributaries. Spare the trees.

Recent intelligence from Cuba relating to the feeling over the promotion of General Wood indicates that the army officer is in danger of passing the actor in the way of nursing netty

#### That Paterson Verdict.

ROM SUCH reports of the coroner's inquest in the matter of the Paterson wreck as have been published in the newspapers, the verdict's silence with respect to the engineer of train 96 apporter on the matter, Mr. Scranton pears as a surprise. On the face of said: The editor who receives a let- the testimony as well as upon the face ty and who afterwards garbles it, is wreck itself, it has seemed to most obunfit for the association of gentle- servers that the speed at which train 96 was being run around the curve just this side of Paterson would have been injudicious in any contingency, and was doubly so in view of the engineer's with evil intent, by suppression or eli- knowledge that there was a train not sion; mutilate, pervert, faisify." The far shead. Why, then, did the corotor of this paper "mutilated, perverted | It is easy to criticize a blunder after or faisified" Mr. Scranton's communi- its commission. No doubt the flagman cation of Dec. 11 "with evil intent" is of train 6 should have dropped fusees, to compare the text of that letter as as the rules required. For not joing so it appeared in The Tribune with the he is now held to stern account and it text as it appeared in the Republican. Is unlikely that the public will incline which followed copy literally. Such far toward him with sympathy, ala comparison, now evidently called though had almost any other railroad man been in his place it is open to blue pencil made three elisions, name- doubt whether he would have acted differently. But without reference to (1) The omission of the words "late this matter, which will in due time receive judicial attention, the important

ited censure even had no accident fol-It is better to be safe in the movement of railway trains than to be fast. The tendency to make up lost time is upon many railroads often carried to an extreme. The public might wisely moderate to some extent its clamor for ling" has a significance not necessary record-breaking runs and put a little more ginger into its insistence upon (3) The crossing out of a reference to the running of trains cautiously around the fact that the mayor of the city is curves and in the vicinity of stations, privately indebted to the Scranton Gas It is the public which is chiefly reand Water company for water received. sponsible for fast running. Its patron-Inasmuch as this was the clision which age goes to the "flyers" and trains chiefly "ruffled" Mr. Scranton we take which run moderately fast lose when occasion to explain that free as The subjected to speedier competition. We Tribune is to criticize Mayor Moir's have been pleased to notice that since the Paterson wreck all passenger trains (and we don't owe him any mercy on the Delaware, Lackawanna and obstinately defended his own course. Western use more than average caution in coming into stations. The pollife and it will not knowingly permit jey is prudent and it should have the

> The advance of wages of cotton mill mployes in Georgia is another evidence of a prosperity which smiles upon all these days. The mill owners of the South have been confronted by no persuasive elements in the way of labor unions and it is not known that a demand has been made on part of the employes. Under the circumstances it would not have been difficult for the manufacturers to have kept the rate of wages stationary and the voluntary increase is but another pleasing sign of the good times that render joyful the closing months of the nineteenth century.

> From present prospects trouble is brewing between the big and little leaguers in the base ball enterprise. The magnates make another mistake in quarreling among themselves. Base ball is not in a condition of popularity at this time to survive many internal conflicts.

It is probable that at least twelve Democrats in congress will vote directly for the gold standard bill, while many others will undoubtedly dodge the 1ssue. If. Mr. Bryan can be persuad sl to keep on talking the vote may be unanimous.

The French government is keeping very quiet at present on the South African war question. With the Paris exposition among the enterprises of the future France cannot at this time afford to indulge in many jingo antics.

The nickle-in-slot machines flourish like the proverbial green bay tree in Scranton these days. Some one boust derive quite a revenue from the exhibitions that are evidently not art works for art's sake solely.

In the matter of employment for women, Chicago, of course, leads the country. A sixteen-year-old girl of ous localities about the world, that the innocent airs and peachy complexion has just been arrested there for burg-

> In addition to other terrors the British soldlers in South Africa are menaced by ten tons of plum puddings which are expected to arrive before Christmas.

> In order that there may be no mistak s made in future controversy, it will be well to jot down the address of the original McKinley and Root man

The Marlowe-Tabor divorce suit illustrates anew the folly of husband and wife attempting to become celebrated simultaneously.

This talk of Indian summer weather any open winter seems to have driven the goose-bone prophet to the woods.

Senator Pettigrew shows an inclination to act like Billy Mason's under-

#### Obedience of Orders.

The following dialogue, current at the time, between one of Stonewall Jackson's soldiers and the provost guard, Hustrates Jackson's tact at eluding his enemy, and also the obedience rendered and the confidence re-

posed in him by his troops: The orders read on dress parade the evening before Jackson left the valley to take part in the seven days' fight round Elchmond were, that in case the army moved before further orders, the answer from every soldier to any and all questions from those not connected with the army shall be "I don't know." On the march the provost guard found a soldier in a cherry tree helping himself, when the following took place:

'Who are you?" demanded the guard "I don't know," replied the soldier." "Where are you going?"

"I don't know," which was no doubt

"Where have you been?" "I don't know. Where is your command?"

"I don't know. To what command do you belong?" "I don't know."

"Are those good cherries you are

"What are you doing in that cherry "I don't know."

eating? "I don't know." "Is there anything you do know?"

"What is it?" "Well, the last order I had from old Stonewall was that I was not to know anything until further orders, and genlemen, I would see you all d-d before I will know anything until Old Stonewall takes that order off."-Waco

#### Mistaken Identity.

Times-Herald,

The little daughter of a distinguished French scientist had never seen a monkey; so when an organ-grinder, acompanied by Jacke in cap and jacket, appeared before the house her father took her out to view the creature's antics, expecting that she would be much amused; but after a single glance the little maid hid her eyes against her father's coat skirts and refused to look again, seeming much frightened and

He soothed and coaxed her, wishing to overcome her fears, but for some time in vain. She would not for a moment think of feeding the monkey with a biscuit, as she was urged to do; indeed, she would not even lift her

"But you are really very silly," the father said at last, turning to take her "He is such a harmless little indoors. "Animal!" cried the little girl, stop-

ping short. "Oh, let me feed it, papa, that will be fun! I don't mind animals, but I thought it was such a dreadful little boy!"-Pearson's Mag-

#### General Buller's Obstinacy.

Of General Sir Redvers Buller's obstinacy and opinionatedness I could tell many a story, says a writer in the London Mail. I remember one in particular, in which Lord Charles Beresford, now in this country, was concerned. The scene was in Egypt, during the Nile campaign of 1885. Buller got into a discussion with Beresford as to the proper channel that should be taken by their steamer in descending through one of the cataracts. Each But in the end that which Buller insisted upon was adopted, and the steamer got through without accident.

"You see I was tight," cried Sir Redvers, "mine was the right course," "That was mine, too," coolly replied Lord Charles. "I only recommended the other because I knew you would go against whatever I said.

#### Told of the Sultan's Navy.

A good story is told of a Turkish man-of-war which was ordered to Malta. When the captain had got his ship clear of the Bosphorus, it struck him that it would be as well if he knew where Malta was, for he had not the slightest idea. So he traufred of a passing vessel, whose captain offered to point it out on the chart. But the Turkish captain preferred to follow a vessel which he knew was about to sail for that port.

Unfortunately a fog came on, and when it cleared off the vessel in front was no longer the same, though the captain knew it not. For days he followed the ship, and at last reached port, when, addressing the authorities that came on board, he said, "Malta,

"Oh, no," was the reply, "This is Liverpool." \_\_\_\_

#### PERSONALITIES.

Mrs. Jefferson Davis is to make her permanent home in New Orleans.

Joseph Chamberlain finds his chief rehaxation and amusement in having his daughter read French aloud to him.

Reuben G. Dayton, the blind student at the Yale Law school, is a candidate for honors this year. All his text-books are read aloud to him.

Fresident Hadley, of Yale, believes in the old maxim about early rising. He is up and about by 6 o'clock every moraing and generally in bed by 10 or 11.
Alfred S. Hartwell, who, as an unefficial delegate at the coming congress, is to represent Hawaii, is said to be one of the few foreignets who can speak the

native Hawaiian language with any degree of accuracy, Prince Sergius Wolkonsky, who visited America in the interests of the Russian minister of education in 1893, and lectured at Harvard and Cornell, has just been cointed government superintendent of Russian Imperial theaters.

It is said that the Duke of Connaught wanted to go to the South African war, but that Genral Buller, in his parting interview with the Queen, said: "You have many good officers, but only three Keep them at home." Victoria.

acted upon this advice.
George Wyndham, the under secretary of state for war in Great Britain, though only 35 years old, has been in parliament several years, and has won a reputation as a strong debater. He entered the army in his twentieth year and saw hard service in Africa. He has also found time to edit an edition of Piutarch as well as a volume of Shakespeare's

Captain and Madame Dreyfus continue to lead a very quiet life at Carpentras, receiving few visitors. Special precautions are still adopted by the police officials, but they are regarded as practically superfluous, for not a single un-pleasant incident has been recorded since Captain Dreyfus arrived at the Vilia

Professor W. M. Davis, of Harvard university, who has recently returned from his sabbatical year abroad, says that the European university men were generally surprised to learn of the size and wealth of Harvard university. The gifts from graduates caused surprise, as no such custom exists abroad, and the system of following sabbatical years also caused

What the Y. M. C. A. Is Doing for the Men Who Are Serving Their Country Abroad.

The many friends of the Young Men's Christian association residing in Scranton, especially those who are interested in the work of the International committee among the soldiers. will be pleased to note the forward movement along this line. When congress increased the United States army by adding several new regiments, it falled to make any provisions for additional chaplains and consequently all the regiments which have been ordered to reinforce General Otis in the Philippines have gone without chap-

Not being able to induce the chaplains of the regular army posts to sail for Manila, Secretary Root appealed to the International committee of the Young Men's Christian association, urging it to put men on the trans-ports and to rend others to the Philippine Islands at once.

Mr. Root said that he appreciated the efforts of certain public-spirited citizens to furnish the soldiers with reading matter after they reached the islands, but that absolutely no provisions were being made for the men during the fifty or sixty days they were on board the transports.

Going at this great problem with a will, W. B. Miller, secretary of the army and navy work, secured and fully equipped with a field Young Men's Christian association outfit, the following, who have already been sent out : Frank Gloeckner, of San Francisco, who sailed on the Hancock: C. D. Carlisle, of Iowa, who sailed on the Thomas; John M. Phipps, who sailed on the Meads, and John M. Dean, of New York, who sailed on the Logan.

Beside books, papers, magazines and field equipment, the Meade, which left New York a few weeks, ago, had on board six carrier pigeons from the homing station in the Brooklyn navy yard. When eighteen hours out, onof these birds was released and brought back the first Young Men's Christian association message ever sent by a field worker to the home secretary by means of a carrier pigeon The message reads as follows:

Dear Mr. Miller: We are eighteen hours at sea, with none seasick. The Meade, crew, officers and soldiers are all right. Our work on board is promising. number of officers have asked me about the circulating library. Some have asked about tents and others regarding stationery. All are interested in accom-modations and benefits of the Young Men's Christian association. Plan now is to organize an association to secure chorus and form a literary society or pard at once and to enlist as much help from the officers and men as possible. There are many men on board who have seen service in the Philippine Islands and I have been able to learn from them semething about the needs of the soldiers in the comps around Manila This to all interested in our work by car-Phipps.

Nearly twenty tons of equipment were sent to the Philippines by the International committee in October, which Included 1,000,000 envelopes, 1,000,000 notcheads, games, tents, organs, song books, testaments, pens, ink and scores of other things which the war department does not furnish, but which are essential to the average soldier's com-

Through the kindness of several in this city, it is reported that a seconbox of magazines, weighing 380 pounds. was sent to New York last week by our home association.

#### FOR ADMISSION TO THE BAR.

Semi-Annual Examination Will Be Held on Monday.

The semi-annual examinations for admission to the bar of Lackawanna county will be held in one of the court rooms in the court house, Scrantor Pa., on Monday, Dec. 18, 1899, and subject to the following order:

Monday, Dec. 18, 1899-Blackstone's commentaries, 8.30 a. m. to I p. m. Agency, 2 to 3 p. m.; Partnership, 3 to

Tuesday, Dec. 19, 1999-Contracts, 8.30 to 10.30 a, m.; Constitutional Law, 10.30 to 11.30 a. m.; Common Law Pleading, 11.30 to 12.30 p. m.; Trusts and Trustees .30 to 2.30 p. m.; Criminal Law and Statates relating to Crimes and Crimina

Wednesday, Dec. 20, 1839-Practice, 8.30 to 19.30 a. m.; Evidence, 19.30 to 11.30 a. m.; Sales, 11.39 a. m. to 1 p. m.; Quast Contract, 1 to 2.39 p. m.; Torts, 2.39 to

Thursday, Dec. 21, 1899.-Equity and Equity Procedure, 8.30 to 10.30 a. m.; Corporations, 10.30 a. m. to 12 m.; Kent's ommentaries (Volume 1), 1.30 to 2.30 p m.; Elementary Law, 2.30 to 3.30 p. m. Domestic Relations, 2.20 to 5 p. m. Friday, Dec. 22, 1839—Decedent's Estates, 8.20 to 10.39 a. m.; American Commonwealth (Bryce), 10.30 a. m. to 12.30 p. m.; Bills and Notes, 1.30 to 3 p. m.; Federal Procedure, 3 to 4 p. m. By order of the Board of Examiners.

#### LIFE'S HUMOROUS SIDE.

### The Prevailing Craze.

Teacher-Bobbie, did you look up the story of the prodigal son, as I told you? Bobbic—No'm. Ma wouldn't let me take the Bible. She's pressin' autumn leaves in it.-San Francisco Examiner.

The Unpardonable Part.

It is getting "found out" that is really the curse Of our wrongs, for it can't be denied That the rat in the trap may be not a bit worse Than the one that is on the outside.

-Elliott's Magazine, Dangerous Work. Spacer-Good-bye, old man. You may

sever see me again. Scribbler-What's the matter? Spacer-I've got to interview a man who has discovered a new explosive.-New York Journal.

To the Kicker.

If you e'er know that happy day,
And reach that place-I tell you true-Where you can have things just your The world will all be dead but you.

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As a Christmas

Present for Either

Lady or Gentleman

is as appropriate as anything

We had this in view when

we made our selections and

the goods fully meet our ex-

The handles, of Natural

Woods, Plain and with fine

Pearl, Sterling Silver and

Gold Mountings, are the most

artistic and unique of any

line we have ever shown,

"The wearing qualities are

The"Golf,""Tally Ho" and

"Automobile', are among our

latest handles and these we

are showing in exclusive de-

signs, and in regard to prices,

you can take your choice from

\$3.75 to \$17.50. Select now,

Should you want the Best

while the line is unbroken.

beyond question."

we can suggest.

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## Holiday Opening..

Calendars,

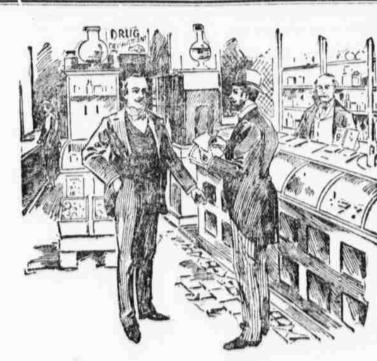
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The largest retail drug store in America is that of Hegeman & Co on Broadway in New York City. A reporter who went there to learn how Ripans Tabules were selling bought a five-cent carton and asked:

"Do you have much call for these?"

The head of the department replied ; "The sale of Ripans Tabules is constant and is increasing. Almost every third customer asks for them. Satisfaction with them is very general. When once they are begun I notice that a permanent customer for them is made. This, I believe, is through their intrinsic merit. I think them specially useful in the general run of stomach troubles."

A new style packet containing the fireass tabules in a paper carton (without glass) is now for sale at some drug store; you live Carto. This low-princed sort is installed for the boar and the committed. One doses of the live cont cartolic (ii) tabules? can be had by mad by section furth eight cents to the fireass Christian Carton, No. 19 Sprice struct, No. 19 Sprice struc