

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, but the rule is that these must be signed, for publication, by the writer's real name; and the condition precedent to acceptance is that all contributions of whatever nature and by whomsoever sent shall be subject to editorial revision.

TEN PAGES.

SCRANTON, DECEMBER 21, 1899.

The country will sustain the timely action of Senator Fairbanks in introducing a bill to pension General Lawton's widow, who, by his death, is left virtually penniless. Her husband gave his whole energy during life and finally life itself to the service of his country at scant compensation while alive; and now let no ingrate seek to block the course of justice to his surviving heir.

Over-Counting the Cost.

WITH REFERENCE to the death of General Lawton the Philadelphia Ledger says: "The entire Philippines are not worth the life of one such a brave patriot, and yet the administration has caused the country to pay for them thousands of lives and at least a hundred millions of treasure. Blood and money have been poured out like water to perpetuate a political blunder."

General Lawton was a soldier from shoe-sole to crown. His life was spent in fighting enemies of his government and in that pursuit he died a soldier's death, falling at the head of his column with face to the foe. We are satisfied that could he have chosen the manner of his death he would not have chosen differently; and could his opinion have been had as to the time, surely he would not have selected a different time than the one which puts him before the contemplation of every American citizen as a hero stricken in warfare after long and brilliant service. We lament the necessity which sheds blood in any cause; and the loss to the nation in the sacrifice of a man like Lawton is not easily exaggerated; still, that which has come to pass is not to be undone by murmuring, nor is it a compliment to Lawton's memory to use his name in connection with a grovel.

The cry of reward when progress causes suffering is very natural; but philosophy teaches that war is not the only form of progress which exacts the tribute of bloodshed. The coal which furnishes the fuel used in generating the power that turns the Ledger's presses is not mined without loss of life and heroes as brave as Lawton fall in the mines every little while. The trains which transport the Ledger from press room to reader are not run without a sanguinary cost, but it does not follow that the processes of civilization are therefore to be suspended. If our contemporary will use a little philosophy in its contemplation of the Philippine problem it will discover that, apart from the personal grief involved, the death of General Lawton, coming as it did, is neither a bad thing for Lawton nor for the country which honors him in death more than it could ever have honored him in life.

The example of fidelity to duty and of courage in the performance of that duty which it sharply accentuates; the beloved association which in time to come it will attach to the soil whereon he fell—this is not a proper subject of regret but rather an inspiration going into the souls of Lawton's surviving countrymen.

The hand is to the plough in this Philippine affair and it is nonsensical to talk of turning back.

The local Democrats regard each other as though they had been drinking from a quasi-wood loving cup.

Diplomatic Reforms.

IN A LECTURE recently delivered before the school of diplomacy in the Columbian university, Hon. John W. Foster, former secretary of state and one of the pillars of our diplomatic department, put in evidence his belief that the United States made a mistake when it raised the rank of its chief representatives at foreign capitals to that of ambassadors and thereby gave notice of its intention to enter into competition with the aristocratic nations of Europe in what the Washington Post, in discussing Mr. Foster's remarks, alludes to as "official parade and tomfoolery."

Supplementing the lecturer that interesting journal says: "There has been no time in our history when a representative of the United States could not secure all the respect and consideration to which his nation was entitled, if he had the courage and the tact to make his claim. All this talk about the necessity of higher rank for our envoys at foreign capitals, in order to assure them proper recognition, is nonsense. We have commanded and shall continue to command such recognition in the exact ratio of our national importance, and we can do this in the future, as we have done it in the past, without the aid of high-sounding titles and foolish, ceremonious fuss. As for the trumpery squabble over precedence at dinners and receptions—who shall stand nearest the Etruscan cupid or the Pompeian coal-scuttle, or who shall get first place in the rush for champagne and champagne—the American people will be very glad to have such matters referred to the high tribunal of opera bouffe, where they legitimately belong. Not more than one person in every fifty thousand of our population cares whether foreign envoys at Washington or United States envoys at foreign capitals are called ambassadors or ministers, or, for that matter, whether they have any titles at all; but almost everybody is weary of the trumpery pomp, the petty rivalries, the mean snobbery, and the irksome multiplication of official personnel which constitute

the harvest of our latter-day diplomatic expansion. Mr. Foster speaks for the country when he says that we shall neither solve the problem of precedence nor increase our own dignity by a servile imitation of European tomfoolery in this matter."

This question can be approached somewhat differently now than it could have been two years ago. At that time, American prestige at certain continental centers was not so high that we could afford to institute innovations or neglect opportunities in diplomatic ceremony. Today the importance attaching to the office of representative of the United States is such that the small details of court custom appear dwarfed; so much so that, if it be deemed advisable to begin a reconstruction of our policy in this direction the time is opportune. What is called the "new diplomacy" has already established the precedent of outspoken speech without equivocation in place of the ingenious lying of former times. Perhaps corresponding reformation of the ridiculous etiquette of diplomacy is to come from the same source and in the same manner.

Following each report of disaster to British troops in South Africa the rush of volunteers at English recruiting stations increases. This is an indication of sentiment that foreign nations disposed to take advantage of Great Britain's dilemma will do well to consider.

Sampson-Schley.

UPON AUTHORITY it is said that an agreement has been reached between the administration and the partisans of Admiral Schley in the senate whereby a bill to create the grade of vice admiral and provide for two appointments to that grade will be passed without opposition, the condition being that the president is to nominate for those positions Rear Admirals Sampson and Schley. But for this agreement it is said that promotion to Sampson would be blocked.

No new facts bearing on the case have come to light and the old facts are, or ought to be, well known. The fitness of Sampson for promotion has not been questioned but on the contrary is strongly affirmed by all unbiased students of his professional career. The fitness of Schley for promotion has been questioned and the records of the navy department supply the reasons why. If in the light of these records and reasons the president wishes to make Schley a vice admiral and the senate is willing to confirm the nomination no profit can come to Lawton from a further agitation of the subject.

The quicker the mantle of oblivion can be dropped over the whole affair the better will it be for the future of the navy.

The Ex-Governor of Cuba.

IT IS PROPER that a word of appreciation should now be printed in behalf of the retiring executive of Cuba, Major General Brooke. The period of his administration covers a few days less than a year, yet as he points out in his farewell manifesto, a year ago he found the country devastated, its resources and commerce destroyed, and its rural population gathered in its towns without shelter and dying from starvation and exposure, while today substantial evidences of prosperity appear on every hand, municipal and provincial governments have been organized and put in the hands of the native people; the courts have been to a considerable degree reorganized, with many of the laws modernized, peace reigns and law and order rules. Although much hard work remains to be done in the reconstruction of affairs preliminary to the establishment of stable native government, and although there seemed at the time to be a good many items in General Brooke's passing conduct open to question if not to censure, it must in fairness be said for him that, taking into account the limitations and the strange circumstances by which he was surrounded he has performed a wonderful task.

He went to Cuba after a very brief experience as the military governor of Porto Rico, to which latter assignment he had gone without any experience whatever in the civil functions of such an office. All his life he had been a soldier, inured to military forms and ideas. That under these conditions he should have shown some signs of what civilians call the spirit of a martinet is less remarkable than that in grappling with the large and complicated problems of an utterly new function he should so many times have been right. It is necessary to say that in all the criticism of General Brooke which has found its way into the American press not once has his honesty been questioned, never has scandal in the familiar Spanish sense attached to his handling of the revenues or his appointments to office, and by no man has the charge been brought that he did not do the best that was in him. This is why fair-minded men will overlook minor errors of detail and accord to him a cordial welcome home.

The American people can be proud of an army which has ready for each new emergency men of the stamp of John H. Brooke.

Mabini, one of Aguinaldo's chiefs, admits that the Philippine insurrection

is crushed and says that if a liberal government is given the inhabitants of the islands no more trouble will be experienced. This looks as though Mabini would be willing to accept an office under the government if sufficient inducements were thrown in.

Edward Bok, the youthful authority on feminine topics, announces that "if all the dressmakers known to exist in America worked twenty-four hours of each day for a whole year, without stopping for sleep or meals, they would still be able to make only one dress apiece for less than seven-eighths of the women of America." The saddest feature of the announcement is the fact that Mr. Bok offers no remedy for this calamitous state of affairs. Even with the dressmakers working overtime, what is to become of the one-eighth in this season of prosperity when almost every woman can afford a new garment? Are they to be compelled to go dressless or resort to the bargain counters for "tailor-made's"? This is indeed a serious thought to precipitate at a time when so many other vexed questions are up for consideration. Let us hear from some representative woman's club.

The recent trouble in Wall street need not be taken seriously. It was simply an indication that shearing times had arrived. The combined windings of ten brokers during the panic amounted to \$7,000,000. As the lambs have nearly all been relieved of their winter fleeces, affairs in Wall street may be expected soon to resume their normal condition.

Adversity does not seem to cement the friendship of the base ball magnates. They are now engaged in a wrangle that may end in the death of professional ball. Base ball has been the victim of rowdism and hippodroming. Lovers of true sport will regret its downfall.

Palmitists have been reading the hands of Mr. Bryan, but none of them can see lines indicative that either will ever be a president's message.

Politics and theatrical entertainments experience difficulty in securing a hearing this week.

Philadelphia is already beginning to act conventional.

TOLD BY THE STARS.

Daily Horoscope Drawn by Ajacchus, The Tribune Astrologer. Astrological Cast: 2:10 a. m., for Thursday, December 21, 1899.

A child born on this day will have the shortest birthday of the year.

Public reforms and questions of government, municipal, national, school interest the woman who can make first-class pumpkin pie and doughnuts and knows just how to produce the best effects in broiling a sirloin steak.

If every man possessed the features of perfection that he thinks his neighbor should display, policemen and jailers would soon be out of occupations.

A few dust mites might do good service in this city. Some of us are evidently getting more than our share.

The present weather has evidently been arranged to give Santa Claus an opportunity to test the automobile.

Ajacchus' Advice. Do not harbor a grudge. It will produce dyspepsia and make you the laughing stock of your neighbors.

Do not judge by appearances. A man with buzz-saw thoughts is sometimes forced to look placid.

LITERARY NOTES.

The Christmas number of Truth, the New York illustrated weekly, is not only an extremely interesting magazine in point of illustration and reading matter, but is a work of art from cover to cover, including the color pages are of unusual beauty and interest, and include reproductions from the paintings of many leading artists. There is also a very handsome and complete calendar accompanying each number, and exemplifying the perfection of color printing. Among the literary contributors are Julian Ralph, Paul Lawrence Dunbar, Ellis Parker Butler, Charles F. Lummatt, Tudor Jenks, Madison Cawein, Louise Betts Edwards, Carolyn Wells, and Mienai Gifford White. Short stories, special articles, poetry, pages for children, and a good share of lighter matter, go to make up a very beautiful Christmas number.

"A History of American Privateers," by Edgar Stanton Mackay, author of "A History of the United States Navy," is announced for immediate publication by D. Appleton and Company. After several years of research, the distinguished historian of American sea power presents the first comprehensive account of one of the most picturesque and absorbing phases of our maritime warfare. The importance of the theme is indicated by the fact that the value of prizes and cargoes taken by privateers in the Revolution was three times that of the prizes and cargoes taken by naval vessels, while in the War of 1812, we had 317 privateers, and only 23 vessels in our navy.

Edward F. Elgwood, editor of Popular Science, a well-known specialist in nature-study, is to conduct a department of "Nature and Science for Young Folks" in St. Nicholas, and will answer all the questions children ask him. Another new departure is the St. Nicholas League, an organization of young people wherein prizes are offered for the best compositions, drawings, photographs, etc. St. Nicholas will give unusual attention to educational subjects in 1900. The January number will contain an illustrated article describing the work done in Washington "Out-of-Door Schools," where classes study plants and animals, government, geography, science and art in the parks, museums, and public buildings.

The Christmas number of the Saturday Evening Post marks a new departure in periodical literature—the first successful attempt to give for five cents, stories, articles and pictures by the same writers and artists who make the highest magazines. For example, the opening story in the Christmas Post is by Rudyard Kipling, and the tale that of Private Ortheris and his dog, Garry; Joel Chandler Harris tells "Why the Confederacy Failed," a stirring story of the Secret Service; and Ian MacLaren, Justin McCarthy, M. P., John Luther Long, M. E., M. Davis, W. C. Culp and W. B. Howland contribute stories and articles. The verse in the number is by Edwin Markham, Frank L. Stanton, Mary E. Williams and Clinton Standard.

The January number of McClure's Magazine promises something in the way of color printing surpassing anything yet achieved by magazines. In illustration of the first chapters of "The Life of the Master," by Dr. John Watson (Jan McClure), eight brilliant paintings by C. E. Johnson will be reproduced full-page, in all the colors of the originals. The titles

of these paintings are "The Annunciation to Mary," "A Nazareth Street Scene," "Fountain Scene at Nazareth," "The Way Up to Bethlehem," "The Flight into Egypt," "The Birthplace of John the Baptist," "Rachel's Tomb," and "Jesus Laboring at Home with Joseph and Mary."

The narrative of Capt. Joshua Slocum's "single-handed circumnavigation of the globe" has proved a remarkably popular feature of the Century. In the January number, the Yankee sailor tells of his arrival at Cape Town and visit to the South African republic, where he was accorded an interview with President Kruger. Everything went smoothly till Capt. Slocum's introducer, Judge Beyer, referred to his voyage "around" the world. "You don't mean 'round' the world," exclaimed their host. "It is impossible. You mean 'in' the world."

In the January Scribner's Governor Roosevelt inaugurates a series of articles embodying a critical study of the life and times of Oliver Cromwell. In the same number a new serial, by J. M. Barrie, entitled "Tommy and Grizel," will be begun. It is said to be the best work that Mr. Barrie has yet done in fiction.

A new two-step on the cake-walk order, entitled "Impecunious Davis," has been issued by F. A. Mills, 48 West Twenty-ninth street, New York. It is by Kerry Mills, the pioneer in this field of musical composition, and it embodies the well-known peculiarities of this composer's work. The advance sale is 25,000 copies.

Felix Gras, author of "The Reds of Mill," which Gladstone praised, is now publishing, through D. Appleton and Company, "The White Terror," the concluding volume of his great trilogy of the French Revolution, which is described as the crown of the author's interpretation of the revolution in fiction.

A timely issue by Laird & Lee, Chicago, consists of a tourists' map of Paris, together with directions for finding points of interest and French capital and for carrying on a partial conversation in the French tongue. The volume is designed for Americans intending to visit the Paris exposition.

"The True Story of the Boers" is the title which has been given to H. C. Higgins's timely book, "Om Paul and his People," which is said to be the most interesting and successful of all the books dealing with the Boers and their relations to the English.

Mr. S. S. McClure, founder and editor of McClure's Magazine, announces his purpose to enter upon a general book publishing business. He is also planning a new monthly periodical to be called McClure's Review.

"The King's Mirror," by Anthony Hope, is declared almost unanimously by English critics to represent the best literary work which the author has done.

Paul Leicester Ford's new historical romance, "Janice Meredith," published last month by Doubleday, Deane & Co., is now selling in its 12th thousand.

Arrangements have been made for an Australian edition of "David Harum," which will be issued shortly.

The 20th thousand of "David Harum" is announced by D. Appleton and Company.

PERSONALITIES.

John Wanamaker authorizes the statement that he never advertised in a Sunday newspaper and never will. He sent through Oklahoma City is Laura Lykins, a half-blood Shawnee woman, who was graduated from the legal department of the Carlisle Indian School in 1898.

Albert J. Earring, the new president of the Chicago Milwaukee and St. Paul railway, is a native of Wisconsin, and began his railroad work as a telegraph operator at Oconomowoc, on the Milwaukee road in 1871. He went through all the grades, from station operator, train dispatcher, assistant superintendent, assistant general superintendent, manager and finally to the presidency. The late John I. Blair, in his earlier days, owned a western railroad along the route of which he established a series of lunch rooms, at which employees of the road were to be charged 50 and all passengers 75 cents. Mr. Blair once dined at one of these places, and, concluding his meal, laid down a half dollar. "Hold on!" cried the cashier, "you don't belong to this road." "Swear that," replied Mr. Blair, "the road belongs to me."

Ex-Governor H. S. Thompson, of South Carolina, who has just returned from a tour of Europe, tells this story: "When I was in Switzerland a native of one of the towns in which I stopped, who had evidently been told where I came from, approached me at the hotel and said: 'Excuse me, sir, but will you very kindly repeat to the remark of the governor of North Carolina and give a practical illustration of what followed it. It is astonishing how those stories travel.'"

AS TO CHEAP POWER.

Editor of The Tribune—Sir: Noticing the various articles appearing in The Tribune probably advertisements, although there is nothing to indicate it), extolling Niagara as a location for manufacturing enterprises, owing to the cheap power furnished, I am in a very honest, and am prepared to prove by actual results attained, that power and electricity can be furnished in the anthracite coal regions for less than is charged at Niagara, leaving a very large margin of profit. This is not an unreliable assertion of an enthusiastic inventor, but is based on established facts and can be so demonstrated to any one willing to investigate.—J. Gardner Sanderson. Scranton, Dec. 21.

WHEN MY CHRISTMAS SHIP COMES IN.

(From School Songs by Orlana M. Williams.) Now I dream of Christmas treasures, Of the countless coming pleasures, When my Christmas ship comes in! She is laden with good wishes, Gifts from books to flowered dishes, O I feel possessed of riches, When my Christmas ship comes in! Days seem long, but time is fleeting, Soon we'll sing the angel greeting, "Hark! my heart is ever repeating, 'When my Christmas ship comes in, 'Glory' high above expressing, Peace and sweet good will possessing, Gift of gifts comes with the blessing, When my Christmas ship comes in!"

Luther Keller LIME, CEMENT, SEWER PIPE, Etc.

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Mercereau & Connell, Jewelers, Silversmiths, No. 130 Wyoming Avenue. Our Thirty-fourth Year. A GRAND Christmas Display. BARGAINS IN EVERYTHING. Fine Diamonds, Rich Jewelry, Stone Rings. Watches of the reliable sort from \$2.50 to \$150.00. Sterling Silver Wares, Sterling Silver Novelties, Clocks, Etc. Our prices are at the bottom. Our guarantee is perfect.

Hill & Connell's Christmas Furniture. The largest stock to select from of Writing Desks, Lounges, Dressing Tables, Work Tables, Toilet Tables, Easy Chairs, Gilt Chairs, Inlaid Chairs, Parlor Cabinets, Rockers, Music Cabinets, Shaving Stands, Curio Cabinets, Pedestals, Book Cases, Jardiniere, Waste Baskets. AT THOS. KELLY'S FURNITURE STORES. 131-133 Franklin Avenue.

Hill & Connell Heating Stoves, Ranges, Furnaces, Plumbing and Tining. GUNSTER & FORSYTH, 225-227 PENN AVENUE.

The Hunt & Connell Co. Heating, Plumbing, Gas Fitting, Electric Light Wiring, Gas an Electric Fixtures, Builders Hardware. A cigar maker who worked in Girard Avenue, Philadelphia, had dyspepsia for two years, and began to think his heart was affected. He went to a doctor, but the doctor told him he ate too much. Ripans Tabules came to his notice shortly after and from them he found relief. He continues to take them three or four times every week as a safeguard and recommends them to everybody now.

FINLEY'S Fine Laces. Like fine paintings and fine jewels, are pleasant to look upon and give joy to the possessor. We have added this week to our stock of Laces some elegant Real Renaissance Lace Robes, in Black and Cream. ALSO—Renaissance Lace Jackets, Real Point and Duchesse Laces and Hadderchiefs, Renaissance Center Pieces, Doylies Etc., Etc. And our usual unapproachable stock of Fine Housekeeping Linens. 510 and 512 LACKAWANNA AVENUE. OPEN EVENINGS UNTIL CHRISTMAS.

Holiday Goods. Calendars, Booklets, Bibles, Prayer Books, Gold Pens, Gold Ink Stands, Leather Card Cases, Fountain Pens, Music Rolls, Pictures, Pocketbooks, Traveling Cases, Bill Books, Opera Bags, Typewriters, and a Handsome Assortment of 1900 Diaries in fancy bindings, suitable for Christmas Gifts. Reynolds Bros Office Supplies Our Specialty. 139 Wyoming Ave. HOTEL JERMYN.

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