

The Scranton Tribune

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

New York Office: 150 Nassau St., S. B. 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 topics, but its 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 of whomsoever sent shall be subject to editorial revision.

TEN PAGES.

SCRANTON, DECEMBER 22, 1899.

Senator Hoar's request that his anti-expansion resolutions be laid on the table has been granted. If the senator is really sincere in efforts for the greatest good he will request some one to push them off into the waste basket.

The New Court Bill.

WITH REFERENCE to the bill of Congressman Connell to create a new federal judicial district in Pennsylvania, the Philadelphia Press remarks that except as to territorial boundaries the bill is similar to one drafted and introduced by Hon. Henry C. McCormick, of Lycoming county, when a member of congress ten years ago; and it adds:

"At the time his bill was under consideration Mr. McCormick gave the best reasons possible why another district should be formed, and, unlike Mr. Connell, he was a lawyer who had intimate personal knowledge of the requirements of the section to be affected so far as related to the work of the courts. His reasons, however, failed to secure the passage of the measure, which, we believe, was not reported from the judiciary committee, to which it was referred. Whatever necessity there was for a new district at that time exists today. Whatever reason there was for not creating it is just as good today as it was then. The fact that the court for the western district holds sessions at different points at regular intervals removes one of the arguments in favor of a division—the expense and inconvenience of summoning litigants and witnesses long distances. It is usually the case when a measure of this kind is brought forward that it is in the interest of some one or more ambitious to fill the places which it creates. That, however, should not be the ground on which the bill is considered. It should be acted upon solely with reference to the public requirements and in nowise affected by questions of personal ambition."

The fact that so accomplished a lawyer and so distinguished a gentleman as the former attorney general of Pennsylvania, a decade ago, was sufficiently impressed with the necessity of a third judicial district in this commonwealth to attempt its creation supplies, we think, a strong argument in support of the present bill, which Mr. Connell has introduced at the urging of representative citizens who share Mr. McCormick's estimate of the need of such a convenience to litigants and practitioners in the federal courts. At the hearing on this subject before the judiciary committee of the last congress arguments were presented in favor of Mr. Connell's measure which weighed heavily in the minds of all who gave the subject fair consideration; and what the last congress failed to do in this matter the present congress will be pressed to do as a matter of obvious justice.

To the rule laid down by the Press that a measure of this kind should be acted upon solely with reference to the public requirements, Mr. Connell, we imagine, will cheerfully subscribe, and all the more readily, no doubt, because he has before him the good precedent and example of his friend from Lycoming, ex-Attorney General McCormick. Nothing has occurred in the past ten years to destroy the force of Mr. McCormick's arguments. On the contrary the population comprehended within the jurisdiction of the contemplated new judicial district, as well as the court business, has very materially increased.

Admiral Dewey has made another request that the Chinese sailors who served on his vessels at the battle of Manila be allowed to land in the United States. This privilege, which is given to people of all other nations, seems but small recompense for the heroism of the yellow seaman.

Excessive Caution.

OPPOSITION is threatened in the senate to the ratification of the treaty for voluntary international arbitration signed at The Hague peace conference by the commission representing the United States. Its basis is the claim that the treaty in a general way carries the United States beyond its position of traditional isolation and enrolls it among the powers which are largely instrumental in shaping the policies and destinies of the world. While it cannot be alleged of this treaty, as was successfully asserted of the Olney-Pauncefote treaty of arbitration between the United States and Great Britain, that it involves specifically an "outstanding alliance," yet the opinion is said to prevail among certain senators that the tendency of the treaty is to introduce this nation unnecessarily into the conflicting currents of European politics and on this ground they intend to vote negatively on the question of ratification.

Accepting this argument as having been offered in good faith, what is there in it? The conventions signed by the American peace commissioners at The Hague imposed no compulsion upon the United States as to either the acceptance of arbitration, or consent to an international commission of inquiry when a difference arises, or the acceptance of proffered mediation before or during a war. In other words, the ratification of these three conventions would leave our country

In every material respect just as free and independent and sovereign as it is today; the only difference would be that the moral influence of the United States would be committed in writing, as it already is in history and tradition, to the furtherance of pacific as opposed to violent measures of adjusting the differences between nations. Before our commissioners would sign the convention regarding friendly offices in the attempt to compose international differences they distinctly and in writing affirmed that nothing in their signature was to be construed as indicating a departure from the traditional American position of keeping aloof from the internal affairs of Europe and of expecting the nations of Europe to keep aloof from strictly American affairs. This proviso was drawn in language not open to misinterpretation, and it constitutes an impenetrable answer to the objections which these over-cautious senators are raising.

One fact has now to be accepted as beyond recall and therefore no longer open to serious argument; that is that the United States has already expanded. Growth which could not have been stopped and should not be lamented has made it one of the determinative factors in the world's affairs. The practical question now is not whether this should have been, but along what lines of principle and policy our newly-acquired influence is to be wielded. The best thought and conscience of the time approve the principles and the policies formulated at The Hague. It would not look well for the United States to lag behind the less enlightened nations in its support of those enlightened aims.

If many of the critics of the administration really believed that their efforts would have the effect of honoring the American flag in the Philippines, they would cease at once.

Santa Claus.

THE PERENNIAL question concerning the morality of teaching the young to believe in Santa Claus has again been raised. Two or three ministers in different cities have lately gone on record with their opposition to the pleasing legend which annually brings joyous expectation into millions of happy homes.

It seems to us that there is an inconsistency somewhere. Christ taught in parables. He many times used fiction to emphasize fact. That is to say, He adapted the readiest means of carrying to the intelligence of His disciples and followers the grand truths which it was His mission on earth to inculcate. The use of the parable wrought no harm. It was a legitimate and appropriate form of rhetoric, which in varying manner has been employed by all the great teachers that mankind has known.

The legend of Santa Claus belongs to this category. It appeals better than any other method to the imaginations of the young and surely no one can claim that it works the slightest harm. Sad, indeed, would be the day which extinguished this fruitful source of childish pleasure.

Those who are endeavoring to persuade Mark Hanna to name a candidate for vice-president are not meeting with success. Senator Hanna claims to have anxieties of his own. There is no doubt, however, that Uncle Mark's sanction would give almost any candidate a boom in the way of raising a wall of despair in the Democratic press.

Senator Hoar's Platform.

ACCORDING TO Senator Hoar, the ablest and most respected opponent of the administration's Philippine policy, the most important and pressing obligations of this republic, as defined in his recently offered resolution, are:

- 1. To solve the difficult problem presented by the presence of different races on our own soil with equal constitutional rights. To make the negro safe in his home, secure in his vote, equal in his opportunity for education and employment, and to bring the Indian to a civilization and culture in accordance with his need and capacity;
2. To enable great cities to govern themselves in freedom, in honor and in purity;
3. To make the ballot box as pure as a sacramental vessel, and the election returns as perfectly in accord with the law and the truth as the judgment of the Supreme court;
4. To banish illiteracy and ignorance from the land;
5. To secure for every workman and for every working woman, wages enough to support a life of comfort and an old age of leisure and quiet, as befits those who have an equal share in a self-governing state;
6. To grow and expand, over the continent, and over the islands of the sea, just so fast, and no faster, as we can bring into equality and self-government, under our constitution, peoples and races who will share these ideals and help to make them realities;
7. To set a peaceful example of freedom which mankind will be glad to follow, but never to force upon nations upon unwilling nations at the point of the bayonet or at the cannon's mouth;
8. To abstain from interfering with the freedom and just rights of other nations or peoples, and to remember that the liberty to do right necessarily involves the liberty to do wrong; and that the American people have not right to take away from any other people the birthright of freedom because of a fear that they will do wrong with it.

Concerning the first five of these propositions there is not even the appearance of a difference of opinion among the great body of the American people. As to the sixth proposition, all the difference which seems to exist is due to a misapprehension of facts and purposes. With reference to the seventh, no one is proposing to force freedom on any nation at the cannon's mouth, but in the interest of the larger welfare of a great majority of the native inhabitants of the Philippine islands and, as the Philippine commission

mission tells us, at their eager desire and solicitation, the government of the United States, by means of its military strength, is compelling an armed minority to desist from a mischievous usurpation of authority which has prevailed an odious tyranny upon unarmed fellow inhabitants whom its self-constituted dictatorial power has intimidated and terrorized.

Coming, then, to the last of Senator Hoar's propositions, we have simply to consider whether, in the light of practical common sense, taking due account of the conditions as they exist, there is any better practicable way to deal with the problem confronting us in the Philippine archipelago than that in which that problem is being dealt with. Until the senator from Massachusetts can show that the conditions as officially reported by such men as President Schurman, Professor Worcester, ex-Minister Denby and Admiral Dewey are not the conditions actually existing in the Philippines; until he can establish to the satisfaction of the mind and conscience of the nation that there has been a misconception of facts prejudicial to Aguinaldo and the agencies whom Aguinaldo represents, mere theorizing from assumed premises will not avail to modify policies and measures now in process of execution. Of Senator Hoar's sincerity and moral courage in supporting convictions different from those held by a majority of his countrymen there is no question; but to be effective this courageous sincerity must sustain itself by facts in evidence. Where are those facts?

The man arrested in Philadelphia on the charge of slaying women with a knife went when arraigned and said that he must have been drunk at the time of committing the crimes. This will probably not have much effect as an excuse in the case of the "ripper." Owing to the reluctance of the Pennsylvania legislature to pass laws inflicting proper punishment, a man may get drunk and beat his wife and escape serious consequences; but when he starts out with a knife, indiscriminately slaying the women he meets on the street, he is liable to encounter trouble.

Boston some time ago voted overwhelmingly for an eight-hour working schedule for city employes. The taxpayers now realize to their sorrow that this act of indulgence will cost the city something like a quarter of a million dollars annually, and a reaction has set in. It pays to count the cost.

People who are throwing themselves into hysterics of joy over the disasters that have overtaken British troops in South Africa, will do well to have all their fun now. The future may be different.

Senator Depew's characterization of Monday's panic as a "ghost scare" is exactly true. It was a clear case of being frightened without cause.

HUMAN NATURE STUDIES.

Seeing the Editors.

The stranger in a great city is being shown over the office of a great publication establishment, says the Washington Star. He saw the presses and the type-setting outfit, and then he said with a little timidity: "There's one thing more I'd like to see."

"What's that?"

"I'd like to see 'em edit."

"Oh! of course, I had pretty nearly forgotten that. The editing is only a small part of it. But we've got editors, lots of 'em. See that man with the wastebasket by the side of his desk and the stack of mail three feet high?"

"Yes."

"We've got up a discussion on kissing bugs. He's the kissing bug editor. The man just to his right, with all the diamonds, gives advice to peopled in love. He's the wounded hearts editor. These really, handsome gentlemen to the right, who are engaged in ordering office boys around, are the sea-serpent, how-to-be-around, and summer-drinks editor. The how-not-to-eat-with-your-knife editor is away on his vacation. The is-it-right-to-hug-while-shooting-the-chutes editor is doing his work. The when-to-pull-the-trigger editor is away on his vacation, too."

"And the unassuming man, who sits away off in the corner and doesn't seem to be in it?"

"Oh! he's just a managing editor or an editor-in-chief or somebody—I don't know exactly what."

Hobart's First Fee.

One of the residents of Paterson relates how the late vice-president paid his first fee as a lawyer, says the Philadelphia North American. He was employed to write the will of a well known manufacturer of Paterson, who was wealthy. Asked his fee, Mr. Hobart, the legal hedging, replied: "One hundred dollars." It was from this that he received a significant hint how to succeed as a lawyer. The manufacturer was well pleased with his attorney, and, turning to his desk, drew out a package of bank checks that had come in during the regular course of business. Taking up one for \$300, he indorsed it and handed it to Mr. Hobart.

Taken for a Boer.

Howard C. Hilleagu, whose recent book "Om Paul and His People" has attracted wide attention, has been besieged by people desiring information on South Africa and the Boers, relates the New York World. A young woman, a writer for one of the big newspaper syndicates, called on him the other day. She wished to get material for a Boer article, but had been sadly misinformed. The little woman was somewhat timid when she entered the room, but finally asked coyly: "Are you the writer?" "Yes," replied Mr. Hilleagu. "You will not mind, will you, telling

me just a few facts about your poor, struggling people?"

"My people," gasped the young writer. "Why, the last I heard they were prosperous and living in Pennsylvania. Have they met with misfortune?"

"The timid woman seized the arm of her chair for support. "I thought you were a Boer!" she exclaimed.

A Struggle for Consistency.

Prince Henry of Orleans has a pleasant system of literary work. When he travels he takes with him a corps of talented men, including a physician, a scientist, an editor, a historian and a photographer, each of whom makes a daily contribution to the book which is to describe the journey. In describing this method at a Paris salon, a friend ironically asked: "And what is the hard work which you do for your book?" "The hardest of all," said the prince. "I have the overwhelming duty of making the various accounts agree."—Saturday Evening Post.

His Given Name.

This item has been going the rounds of the Australian press: "A. Swindle" is the name that appears over the door of a struggling lawyer in an up-country town in New South Wales. A friend of the unfortunate gentleman suggested the advisability of writing out his name in full, thinking that Arthur or Andrew Swindle, or the like might be, would look better and sound better than the significant "A. Swindle." When the lawyer, with tears in his eyes, whispered to him that his name was A-dam, the friend understood, and was silent.

PERSONALITIES.

Baron von Windheim, chief of the Berlin police, is coming to this country soon for study of our police methods.

Miss Edith Root, daughter of the secretary of war, makes the tenth young unmarried woman in the cabinet set at Washington, an unprecedented number.

Senor Mariscal, Mexican minister of foreign affairs, is a distinguished diplomat, and has been called the Mexican Gladstone. He speaks English perfectly. Edwin Markham has returned from California, bringing his family with him. They will reside hereafter in the borough of Brooklyn, where the poet has taken up a residence.

Since the war broke out Queen Victoria has been present at the daily, morning prayers of the royal household, and special petitions are offered for the preservation of the army.

Peter A. Porter, of Niagara Falls, N. Y., claims to have proved by careful study that it was Champlain and not Cartier who made the first reference to Niagara Falls in literature.

S. Joseph Vivarotti, of Cayton, a Hindu of high caste, who has been a student in the University of Calcutta, has entered Johns Hopkins university as a special student of Oriental languages.

Emperor William has conferred upon Count von Munster-Ledenburg, the German ambassador at Paris, the title of prince, in recognition of his services as head of the German delegation to the Peace Conference at The Hague.

Thomas Dunn English has just celebrated his eightieth birthday at his home in New Jersey. He is the oldest living graduate of the University of Pennsylvania. Still, his fame, continues to rest on the shoulders of immortal "Ben Bolt."

Aired Gwynne Vanderbilt has just attained his majority. His graduation from Yale last June. He was quiet and studious at college. He is said to have formed an attachment while an undergraduate for Miss Elsie French, and the fact is entertained that they will soon be married.

Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, of Brooklyn, who succeeds Miss Susan B. Anthony as president of the National Association of the Woman Suffrage societies, is a popular college woman and has for a number of years been associated with Miss Anthony in advancing the work of the organization.

Dr. Anita Newcomb McGee, who is at the head of the woman army nurses, and is an assistant to Surgeon Starnberg, has the rank of a first lieutenant and is entitled to wear shoulder straps indicative of her rank. Dr. McGee has the distinction of being the only woman officer in the United States army service.

When Thomas L. James, president of the New York Lincoln National bank, returned home from Europe the other day his desk was covered with flowers, among which was Miss Anthony's private message bearing the card of the late Cornelius Vanderbilt's custom to this great friend, and the family of the dead millionaire had thus kept it up.

Alexander Agassiz, of Harvard university, has never received any salary for his services to the Museum of Comparative Zoology. Between 1871 and 1897 he has expended \$75,000 of his private means without making any communication concerning it to President Eliot. He is now in the South Pacific ocean making deep sea explorations for the university collections.

MELZAR, THE GENTLE.

Melzar, Gentle of Lystra, buffeted harshly by fate, and with a startled wonder, Paul the Apostle cried:

"Ignorant, wretched, unlettered, he listened in awe and believed; Christ as Messiah and Master the simple Gentle received."

Pondered he long the story, the marvelous Christ-child's birth, Vision of love incarnate coming from heaven to earth. Often wished Melzar, the Gentle, that he had beheld the star.

Following after its gleaming to the sacred afar. Ignorant quite, and untutored, he pondered again and again, Wistfully hoping the beacon none more likely to appear to men.

Seeing one eye with rapture a star with a marvelous light, Melzar, ill with a fever, hastened into the night.

Weakened with suffering and anguish, feebly he rose from his bed, Following, following, whither the star in its beauty led.

"Surely length, I shall see Him," Melzar, rejoicing, cried; "Lead me, oh, Star of Wonder, close to my Master's side."

Far from his home they found him, there on the grassy plain; Who seeketh the Christ-child, seeketh Him not in vain.

Surely a star will lead them close to their Master's side— Melzar, dead in the sunlight, never in truth had died.

—Mabel Cronin Jones in Leslie's Weekly.

Luther Keller

LIME, CEMENT, SEWER PIPE, Etc. Yard and Office West Lackawanna Ave., SCRANTON, PA.

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 PRESENTS Christmas Furniture. The largest stock to select from of Writing Desks, Lounges, Dressing Tables, Work Tables, Toilet Tables, Easy Chairs, Cheval Glasses, Gilt Chairs, Parlor Cabinets, Rockers, Music Cabinets, Shaving Stands, Book Cases, Pedestals, Waste Baskets, Jardiniere. And novelties in PICTURES. All marked in plain figures. A fine selection for early callers.

Hill & Connell 121 N. Washington Ave., Scranton, Pa. Heating Stoves, Ranges, Furnaces, Plumbing and Tining. GUNSTER & FORSYTH, 325-327 PENN AVENUE.

The Hunt & Connell Co. Heating, Plumbing, Gas Fitting, Electric Light Wiring, Gas and Electric Fixtures, Builders Hardware. 434 Lackawanna Avenue. IS YOUR HOUSE VACANT? IF SO, TRY A "FOR RENT" AD. IN THE TRIBUNE. ONE CENT A WORD.

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 Handkerchiefs, Renaissance Center Pieces, Doylies Etc., Etc. And our usual unapproachable stock of Fine Housekeeping Linens. 510 and 512 LACKAWANNA AVENUE. OPEN EVENINGS UNTIL CHRISTMAS.

THOS. KELLY'S FURNITURE STORES. 131-133 Franklin Avenue. Never before have we been able to offer such a variety of goods in our lines suitable for presents. Latest designs, exquisite finish, newest covering in parlor goods. Fancy rockers and endless variety of other goods at lowest prices. Cash or credit, at THOS. KELLY'S STORES 131 and 133 Franklin Avenue.

HOLIDAY GOODS At Reduced Prices. We have the following: Calendars, Booklets, Bibles, Prayer Books, Gold Pens, Gold Ink Stands, Leather Card Cases, Fountain Pens, Pocket Books, Pictures, Mocket Books, Traveling Cases, Bill Books, Opera Bags. Reynolds Bros Office Supplies Our Specialty. 139 Wyoming Ave. HOTEL JERMYN.

Illustration of a man in a hat and coat, possibly a doctor or a traveler, standing near a barrel or a large container. A workingman living on Maple street, Camden, N. J., relates how he passed through a crisis which he justly terms "terrible." "I don't believe that any one ever suffered more than I did for two years," he declares. "I would start for work in the morning and would feel so bad that I would quit at 9 o'clock and go home. My heart would beat so fast that I thought I would die. I had given up all hopes of ever getting well. I never had a day go over my head without that terrible feeling and dread of dying. I spent a considerable sum of money doctoring. My friends all remarked how bad I looked and made all kinds of suggestions. Some said change doctors, others said go away for a change, but one friend who had been sick with the same thing, said he was completely cured by the use of Ripans Tablets. This encouraged me and I made up my mind to try them. I did so, and after using them two months I have not had an attack. My heart seems to be O. K., and I have not lost a day's work since I began to use the Tablets. I feel in fact I might say well; still I take one Tablet now and then. I don't believe I would have been here to-day if I had not used this medicine. I am willing to tell any one what Ripans Tablets have done for me if they will write to me."