

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 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 by whomsoever sent shall be subject to editorial revision.

SCRANTON, DECEMBER 25, 1899.

If only Santa Claus would today make Scranton the present of a first class viaduct!

Christmas, 1899.

THOSE WHO incline to look at events through darkened glasses will raise on this day the question whether peace on earth and good will among men exist in view of the eighteen centuries of opportunity for moral advancement which have intervened since the event occurred which Christmas day commemorates. We can imagine them pointing in horror to the South African war; to the hostilities in the Philippines; to the continued supremacy on the Bosphorus banks of that "Crowned Assassin," the Turkish Sultan; to the great armaments prevailing in all European countries; to the signs of earth-quake displayed in connection with the disintegration of China; to the multiplication of industrial and commercial combinations formed expressly for the spoliation of the weak; and to the awful crimes of almost daily occurrence which blacken the chronicles of our own times; and as they point to these blots on the page their conclusion is enunciated that civilization is a failure.

This conclusion is unfair. There is no need to minimize the evil in life in order to establish that the good predominates. War, pestilence, famine, famine and demoralization is indeed in progress at two places on the globe; but compared with the wars of the past it is humane, almost Christianized warfare, in both instances preliminary to immense benefits for all concerned. The Mohammedan despot, it is true, keeps his throne at Constantinople; but year by year the attrition of Christian progress is wearing away his cruelty and delimiting his power for mischief. Furthermore, the whole continent of Asia is in the transition between the old civilization and the new; and at no point on the map is there a permanent retrogression. Denial cannot be made as to the great sums of money tied up in means and implements of warfare; but the very magnitude of the preparation, with its forewarning of the costliness of actual combat, is a potent, perhaps a controlling, influence for peace. Nor must we in this connection forget the steady growth of the public opinion which throughout the civilized nations of the world is gradually extinguishing the bellicent spirit and substituting therefor tribunals of reason. Even in the selfishness exhibited by the powers which hunger for the dismemberment of China there is a competition productive of civil advancement. Upon this foundation what monuments of human progress may not in future be built? Trusts do, indeed, display in many instances the predatory instincts of the primeval man; but it must not be overlooked that combinations for mischief have had no better opportunities or privileges for development than combinations for good; and if public opinion is disposed to give more heed to the mal-factors than to the benefactors of our time it is largely in pursuance of a prompting of human nature which has prevailed since the birth of the race. Similarly as to the gross crimes of the day; they seem discouraging because as a rule they are reported in full; but for every crime committed and blazoned to the world there are hundreds of acts tending to benefit man and substituting neither exciting nor sensational, rarely get into the papers, and when they do, are very rarely seen.

At War with the Trusts.

WAR OF AN aggressive character has been declared by two highly enterprising and estimable classes of citizens, the commercial travelers and the hotel proprietors, upon the trusts. An organization known as the Commercial Travelers and Hotel Men's Anti-Trust League has recently been incorporated in New York state under the presidency of Charles T. Spaulding, of Buffalo, and with vice presidents representing every state in the union, the purpose of which, as set forth in a circular just received, is to bring about a more thorough cooperation in agitating a widespread anti-trust sentiment, and to support, with our votes, men who make a determined effort to assist commercial travelers from Maine to California in a legislative way. To keep traveling men and hotel men up to date in the arguments favoring the anti-trust movement during the approaching presidential campaign, and to prepare, from time to time, talkative facts that should be made prominent, and mail them to our members and such other commercial travelers whose names and addresses, corrected up to date, the league has, numbering over 50,000. To prepare petitions to congress and give them the widest circulation for signatures, and demand strong anti-trust legislation; also to the legislatures of the various states. To attend political caucuses in whatever party our members affiliate, and demand a strong anti-trust plank in their platform, and see that any officer nominated shall be in full sympathy with this plank. The circular continues: "This anti-trust issue overshadows all others with us. What difference whether we have free trade or protective tariff, whether the outlying islands of the sea, proximate or remote, are made colonies or not, if we are taken off the road and deprived of our positions? Resolutions alone will not suffice, but effective laws must be passed and enforced. We are going to educate the public through our membership to the great dangers that menace the industrial interests of our country."

On personal grounds this campaign will have widespread sympathy. No class of men have more friends and well-wishers than the commercial travelers, and the hotel men stand next in the line. Any modification of business conditions which would permanently injure either would be seriously regretted on every hand. More than that, it would represent a financial hardship of considerable proportions to the community in general, for both the commercial travelers and the hotel men are liberal spenders of money and they do not as a rule drive unbusinesslike bargains. That with their wide acquaintance and aggressive ways they can prove very influential in shaping party and legislative policy in regard to trusts goes without saying, especially if, as this organization shows, they shall go at the work cohesively. In the existing temper of public opinion a movement of this kind needs only to be judiciously started to be rapidly successful so far as rallying around it the support of a majority of voters is concerned. Both parties recognize this and both will act in their platforms all that can be said in reprobation of trusts. The difficult part of the problem will come later. It will arise when the attempt is made to put into effective statutes the general feeling of the people. It is not unlawful nor can it be made so to combine one industry or enterprise with another. It is impossible to prevent the operation of natural laws in the business world and one of these is the law of economy, which stops the employment of assistants whose services are no longer considered necessary. Where trusts force prices up so as to earn dishonest profits on inflated capitalization there is at once a case for legal intervention; but where as a result of the reduction of competition no other result appears than a reduction of op-

erative expenses sufficient to provide a profit upon the actual investment it is not easy to see how the law can be made to take hold. The sympathies of the people are entirely with the men who are put to loss or suffering by reason of the new tendency toward the elimination of competition in business; but it remains to be shown how this sympathy can be turned to practical account.

In Ohio a law exists putting on all investments by Ohioans made outside the state a tax equal to nearly two per cent. on actual value. Thus the Ohio man who buys government bonds or any other good security not local to his state has to pay almost as much into the state treasury for that privilege as he receives from the investment in interest. The result is that well-to-do Ohioans who do not care to permit perjury by making false returns to the tax assessor are thinking of moving to some other state. It is a poor policy to impose special penalties on thrift.

Medical examination of school children would be a good idea while this diphtheria epidemic is raging; but next to that, let the physicians of our city be more careful as to when they permit convalescent patients to return to school. Carelessness in this respect can do untold mischief.

Like Senator Quay, Senator Flinn has been acquitted of the charge of misusing public funds. Honors being even, the battle will go on.

General Roberts certainly had a triumphal departure toward the scene of war. May his home-coming be equally satisfactory.

In Honor of the Birth of Savior

(Concluded from Page 3)

tribute to the memory of the late D. L. Moody.

ELM PARK CHURCH.

At the Elm Park church in the morning a short musical programme of especial excellence was rendered by Organist Pennington and the church quartette. At this service the pastor, Rev. Charles M. Griffin, D. D., preached the regular Christmas sermon, taking as his theme "The Angel's Song." The Christmas praise service at this church in the evening was of a more than usually elaborate nature and was rendered by the church quartette, assisted by a paid choir of thirty voices.

The first portion of this service consisted of a miscellaneous programme of appropriate selections, including an exquisitely rendered piano and violin duo, "The Allegro Vivace" from Mozart's sonata in A, by Messrs. Widmayer and Pennington. The second portion of the service consisted of the cantata, "The Story of Bethlehem," composed by J. E. West, and which has been so extremely popular in this country that it was found extremely difficult by Mr. Pennington to obtain sufficient copies.

The first twelve distinctive parts to the cantata, which told in so many a solo for each of the soloists and several splendid choruses, all of which were rendered in an excellent manner. The music had the gladdest ring and sound of the Christmas season, and at times one could fancy oneself being wafted back through the centuries to the plains of Judea on that glorious first Christmas day of all.

At the Penn Avenue Baptist church the pastor, Rev. Robert F. Y. Pierce, preached the Christmas sermon in the morning, taking as his theme "The Heavenly Anthem," and as his special text, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will toward men." Rev. Dr. Pierce spoke of the famous songs of sacred history—the song of Miriam, the song of Deborah, the wonderful songs of King David, the song of Mary, the song of Zachariah, the father of John the Baptist, and finally the text sung by the angel choir on that first Christmas morning, nearly 1900 years ago.

In concluding the speaker referred to the open book of life mentioned in the fifth chapter of Revelations, and said it should be everyone's desire to have his or her name written on the pages of this book and have the angels sing for them.

The musical portion of the services at this church was also of a very elaborate and was rendered by the large choir of thirty voices, under the direction of Professor Haydn Evans. Several soprano solos rendered by Mrs. Brandage were especially excellent, as was also an anthem, "For Unto Us a Child is Born," by H. W. H. H.

The Christmas gift service which was to have been held in the afternoon at this church was postponed until next Sunday afternoon. Tomorrow afternoon the primary department of the Sunday school will conduct their Christmas exercises and in the evening the Bible class will hold theirs. At the latter service Rev. Dr. Pierce will deliver an illustrated lecture on "The Life of Christ."

CHRISTMAS AT ST. LUKE'S.

There was nothing of a distinctive Christmas character connected with the services at St. Luke's yesterday, excepting the announcements. They, indeed, had a decided Christmas flavor. This morning there will be three celebrations of the holy communion, at 6, 8 and 10.30 o'clock, the last service being accompanied by the singing of the communion office by a choral choir of thirty men and boys. There will also be a Christmas sermon by the pastor, Rev. Rogers Israel.

The annual special service for deaf mutes of the parish and city in general will take place Friday evening at 7.30. It will be conducted by Rev. J. M. Koehler, of Philadelphia, the noted deaf mute preacher and president of the Deaf Mute Association of Pennsylvania.

Next Sunday Bishop Wells, of Spokane, will deliver the morning sermon, Rector Israel having accepted an invitation to preach on that day at the Church of the Ascension, Baltimore, Md., where a series of sermons by invited preachers was inaugurated yesterday.

During the latter part of last week half a hundred families were supplied with provisions for a beautiful Christmas dinner by St. Luke's congregation through the Woman's Guild. It was, as is annually the aim of the guild, to see to it that no deserving poor family in the city or its suburbs should want for a Christmas dinner. If the ambition was not attained it was not the fault of the members of the guild.

AT ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL.

A pre-Christmas sermon was to have been preached at St. Peter's cathedral yesterday morning at the 10.30 o'clock high mass, but owing to the assigned preacher, Rev. D. J. MacGoldrick, being incapacitated by a severe and sudden attack of neuralgia, a sermon on the gospel of the day by Rev. J. J. Loughran, celebrant of the mass, was substituted.

The Christmas sermon to-day will be preached by Rev. Father Loughran at the 10.30 o'clock mass, which will be a pontifical high mass, with Rt. Rev. Bishop Hoban as celebrant. The music will be of an elaborate character. It will be rendered by an augmented choir accompanied by Bauer's orchestra of twenty pieces. There will also be masses at 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 o'clock.

All the Catholic churches will have special services with elaborate music. At St. Patrick's church Olyphant, the sermon will be preached by one of the noted pulpites of Canada, Rev. Father McCallan, of the Society of St. Sulpice, of Montreal.

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH.

At the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Holy Trinity yesterday the edifice was handsomely decorated. Plants were in abundant evidence, and from the pulpit extended several large festoons of green, handsomely draping the place.

The choir, under the direction of the chorister, E. Prothero, discoursed the music in magnificent style, and Rev. C. J. Spicker's two sermons were both of them magnificent efforts. At the morning service he spoke on the "Preaching of John," while in the evening his theme was the "Source of Christmas Joy."

This morning at 6 o'clock a main service is to be celebrated, at which the following programme will be given: Venite Exultemus, Te Deum Laudamus, sermon and morning prayer. Rev. Mr. Spicker will address the congregation on the subject of the "Birth of Christ."

At 7.30 o'clock this evening, the Sunday school of the church will commemorate the Holy Festival, under the direction of Superintendent R. H. Brader and Miss Lydia Garagan, organist. The programme follows:

Anthem.....Pastor and school invocation. Singing, "Message of the Bells".....School Exercise—By seven girls. Singing, "Sing Alleluia".....School Recitation.....Wilhelmina Bernhard Singing, "Message of Christmas Time".....School Exercise—By eight boys. Singing, "Welcome Happy Christmas".....School Exercise and song.....Grace Broom and eight girls. Singing, "Awake, O Slumbering Hope".....School Recitation.....Amelia Fenne Singing, "Bring Out Ye Merry Bells".....School Distribution of gifts. Singing, "Hear the Angels Singing".....Exercise—Thirty girls and boys. Singing, "Sleep, Holy Babe".....School address and offerings.....School Singing, "The Glad Bells".....School Doxology and benediction.

LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE.

[Under this heading short letters of interest will be published when accompanied by the name of the writer. The Tribune does not assume responsibility for opinions here expressed.]

Mr. Oliver Strikes Back.

Editor of The Tribune— Sir: With respect to the allegations contained in a Sunday paper of today, I desire to say that I invite a most scrutinizing investigation into the methods I employed in connection with those charged by Mr. Horatio T. Fellows, in the recent canvass for the office of select council in the Fifteenth ward. Personally, I do not know that one of the colored citizens voted at the primary, but am informed by the vigilants that not more than six of these people attempted to vote, and that Hon. John H. Fellows was in the booth at the time, evidently in the interest of his brother.

Many other misstatements were made concerning me during the recent canvass, and I also invite those interested to obtain information and make a comparison of my record with that of my late opponent, personally, as a councilman, or as a member of the board of revision and appeal. Joseph Oliver.

Scranton, Dec. 24, 1899.

TOLD BY THE STARS.

Daily Horoscope Drawn by Ajaxchus, The Tribune Astrologer.

Astrologic Cast: 12.01 a. m., for Monday, Dec. 25, 1899.

A child born on this day will not care whether it is a white or green Christmas. The cotton-battling Santa Claus will have his innings tonight.

Of course there will be peace on earth in localities where the youngest member of the family has been remembered with a "drum."

The man who spends too much time watching his enemies, is liable to let business get out of sight.

The pen is mightier than the sword; but a dull discount both.

Time never waits for a slow watch.

Ajachus's Advice.

Do not brood over lost opportunities. They may have been the cause of making you a defaulter.

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, Dressing Tables, Toilet Tables, Cheval Glasses, Parlor Cabinets, Music Cabinets, Curio Cabinets, Book Cases, Waste Baskets, Lounges, Work Tables, Easy Chairs, Gilt Chairs, Inlaid Chairs, Rockers, Shaving Stands, Pedestals, Jardinieres. 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, 225-227 PENN AVENUE. The Hunt & Connell Co.

HEATING, PLUMBING, GAS FITTING, ELECTRIC LIGHT WIRING, GAS AN ELECTRIC FIXTURES, BUILDERS HARDWARE. 434 Lackawanna Avenue. IS YOUR HOUSE VACANT? TRY A "FOR RENT" AD. IN THE TRIBUNE. ONE CENT A WORD.

FINLEY'S A General Cleaning Up. Of all goods bought for Christmas and New Year's giving will take effect This Week. And if your list of purchases for New Year's Gifts is not yet completed, we will help you to do so by offering you Very Special Inducements.

510 and 512 LACKAWANNA AVENUE. AT 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.

HEAVY BELIN, JR., General Agent for the Wyoming District. DUPONT'S POWDER. HIGH EXPLOSIVES. Safety Fuse, Caps and Exploders. Rooms 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200.

Reynolds Bros Office Supplies Our Specialty. 139 Wyoming Ave HOTEL JERMYN. The following story of the well-known teller in the Fourth Street National Bank of Philadelphia argues well for Ripans Tablets: "My position as paying teller," says he, "is a very arduous one (this being one of the largest banks in the Union). I must have accuracy and steadiness of both hand and brain. On Fridays and Saturdays especially, when checks are pouring in in almost unlimited numbers, I must be both quick and accurate. A clear brain is requisite. Many a Friday, after standing so long, counting out money all the time, I have gone home with a head-splitting pain and a dizziness that would unfit me for any more work, but I find that a Ripans Tablet taken after supper relieves me quickly, and after a refreshing sleep I get up the next day as strong as ever and ready for the duty that is before me. Although I have been a paying teller for over ten years I have made but few mistakes, and I attribute my habitual accuracy to the occasional use of Ripans Tablets. They are superior for the severest sort of headaches and I prize them above all nerve tonics. I heartily recommend Ripans Tablets to all suffering from headaches, nervous prostration and dizziness. A single one brings immediate benefit and ease."