

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 28, 1899.

It is a matter of regret that the great majority in this country which appreciates the timely sympathy of England that was instrumental in averting many difficulties during the Spanish war, is silent, while the principal talking at present is done by the garrulous element of the Billy Mason stripe, whose chief ambition seems to be to make the British lion's tail look like a Kentucky cockade.

Intolerable Tedioussness.

THE OLD outcry against expert testimony will be renewed and greatly invigorated by the proceedings in the Mollieux trial. Although this trial has now consumed 44 days, at an expense to the community of several times as many thousand dollars, the prosecution, as pointed out in the press dispatches, has not yet proved that a murder had been committed or that a package of poison had been sent through the mail. Almost the whole time not occupied in selecting a jury has been taken up with the infinitesimal and largely contradictory hair-splitting of experts on the subject of handwriting, no two of whom appear to be able to agree on any salient point, and all of whom know no more about the defendant's innocence or guilt than does the canal-keeper on the planet Mars.

During this dreary period of unprofitable time-spinning the twelve unfortunates in the jury box have slowly succumbed to the tedium and the bad air until it is now safe to say, without desiring to aspersion their characters, that there isn't a man in the dozen who is mentally fit to decide the most elementary disputed point in simple arithmetic. Every man who has served on a jury knows in how short a time, under the most favorable circumstances, the acute perceptions of the well-trained mind dull themselves on the awful monotony of the average court-room, until after a day or two of service the juror's sluggish impulse is to consider every suspect guilty on general principles and to divide the costs between the jury commissioner and the judge. The mental state of men who have had to undergo 44 days of this sort of thing, with a detective's espionage for each juror into the bargain, may readily be imagined, but it certainly cannot be described.

And yet these men are put to this long punishment to no practical purpose whatsoever. We are ready to wager that after this Mollieux trial is concluded, every juror will frankly admit that the testimony of the experts did not weigh the weight of a hair in the formation of the final judgment as to the defendant's innocence or guilt. In a murder trial it never does. No sane man on a jury is going to vote to take a human life on the strength of some paid retainer's hypothetical evolutions of opinion. When a murder is committed it must be proved who did it and why before there is any liability of conviction; and this proof must be substantial, straightforward and convincing beyond a reasonable doubt. Otherwise twelve men will never agree to vote for capital punishment. The district attorney's office in New York county probably knows this as well as anybody and for that reason its circuitous diversion into the fields of immaterial expert testimony is censurable on the score of economy and seaminess if not on more serious grounds.

It is to be hoped that there will be no strings attached to the Lawton fund.

The Compliment of Imitation.

IF IMITATION is the sincerest flattery, Governor Roosevelt must feel pleased to notice that Lord Wolverson, an enterprising British peer, is organizing a regiment of Rough Riders for service in South Africa. Without knowing the plans of this British enterpriser it is safe to say that no regiment recruited in England could possibly present the diversities in local color which characterized the aggregation brought together by Colonel Roosevelt, and it is also somewhat doubtful if an English volunteer regiment could make the history which this eclectic American regiment made, both in its immediate activities upon the battlefield and in the patriotic influences which it contributed or quickened.

The Roosevelt Rough Riders will doubtless figure in history as the most unique and typical regiment ever enlisted in the United States. It represented conspicuously and in a manner that appealed at once to the imagination the spirit of adventure which is the sustaining note of American achievement; and it also represented with unparalleled vividness the essential democracy which is at the bottom of all our superficial social distinctions; the democracy which is the saving cement of American institutions. The generation which, at the call of a national emergency, saw brought to one common level cowboy and millionaire, plainsman, cowpuncher and duke, each proud of the other's heroism and uncomplainingly ready to accept the fortunes of war, though they led into the valley of death—neither that generation nor its sons and daughters can be persuaded that caste in America is much more than a flimsy artifice, really of little account. The Rough Riders have saved us, if we needed saving, from the danger of class violence. They have shown the real truth of our civil

brotherhood and no speciousness of demagogism or emotional intoxication of socialistic dreaming will hereafter wholly eliminate the sobering beneficence of that timely demonstration.

It is hardly possible that Lord Wolverson's collection will be able to affect so powerfully the public opinion of Great Britain, although we hope that it may. In spite of its aristocratic inheritances modern England is essentially democratic, but not to the degree which was exhibited at La Quasimas. Good will be accomplished, however, if Lord Wolverson's regiment shall be permitted by dashing valor to lift into a higher repute the British volunteer. The other nations of the world, which used to look down upon the American soldier for the reason that, when not soldiering, he was capable of earning a living at something else, have in recent months taken a new measure of the volunteer. It was the Roosevelt performance in the hills near Santiago which started the foreign critics upon their career of reconsideration. No American would begrudge Lord Wolverson the chance to clinch their reversal of judgment by some similar feats of bravery in the mountain passes of Natal.

There is no question that the American people are the most generous upon earth. History fails to cite examples of open-handed charity that can equal those occurring about us daily. The constant call for money ever meet with ready responses, whether for a tribute of admiration for heroism; or to feed the hungry of our new possessions; or to cheer the hearts of those who have been distressed by misfortune at home. An appeal for aid is seldom made in vain. In this respect America furnishes an example that few nations can approach, and it is an indication that our people are deserving of the prosperity which they enjoy.

Fair Representation.

JUDGE CRUMPACKER of Indiana, one of the most intelligent of the younger members of congress, has introduced a bill providing that when the Twelfth census is taken information shall be collected concerning the registration and election laws of the various states, the qualifications demanded of voters, the number of votes cast at the last two general elections and the number of males of voting age of each race. The bill is to be favorably reported in the house after the holiday recess, and an attempt will be made to secure its enactment before the census enumeration in the spring.

The object of the bill, as Judge Crumpacker explains, is to secure information upon which to base a just apportionment of the representatives. Says he: "The fourteenth amendment to the federal constitution requires the apportionment of representatives to be based upon population, but in this event that any state shall disfranchise any of its male inhabitants over twenty-one years of age, who are citizens of the United States, excepting for crime or participation in rebellion, the representation of such state shall be reduced in the proportion that the disfranchised male inhabitants bear to the whole number of male inhabitants over twenty-one years of age. That provision of the constitution is imperative. It is the policy of the federal government to encourage universal manhood suffrage, and it is a notorious fact that in a number of states a large proportion of the voting population is disfranchised."

In some states not over 12 per cent of the male inhabitants over twenty-one years of age are allowed to participate in elections. That result is brought about in part by direct provisions of law and in part by maladministration on the part of election officers. The reconstruction legislation that was designed to place the ballot in the hands of the colored man in order that he might be able to make himself felt as a factor in the affairs of his locality has been practically nullified. White citizens of the South no longer disguise the fact that they systematically evade the federal constitution in fixing qualifications that take the right of suffrage away from the negro.

"In Mississippi, Louisiana, and South Carolina, at the Congressional elections in 1898, the vote in each district averaged about 5,000. The average vote in the state of Indiana at the same election averaged about 45,000 in each district. The Supreme court of the state of Mississippi, in a recent decision, boldly declared that the legislature of the state had attempted to discover the means to disfranchise the colored man without violating the fifteenth amendment to the federal constitution, and it upheld the federal legislation. In several of the states any educational laws, fixing so high a standard that it is almost impossible for a colored man to be registered. In Louisiana they have what is called 'the grandfather clause.' It provides that the educational law shall not apply to any one who was a voter on the 1st of January, 1867, nor to any of his lineal descendants. The effect of this provision is to limit the operation of the educational law to the colored race exclusively, because they could not vote on the date fixed, and every white man could."

"I have profound sympathy," adds Mr. Crumpacker, "with the whites of the South who are honestly attempting to protect their institutions against the ravages of illiteracy and ignorance, and I believe that fair educational laws, honestly administered, would have a most salutary effect. If the colored man should be given to know that in order to become a voter he must prepare himself by a fair degree of knowledge, and if he were assured that when he did so prepare himself the right to vote would be freely accorded him, there would be a constant inducement for him to strive for that important privilege, and when he achieved it, it would be a mark of distinction. It would enhance his self-respect and make him a better citizen. The prejudice against color in many sections, however, is so general and intense that discrimination is not

made between the worthy and the unworthy. The laws, either by express provision or in the method of their administration, discriminate against all colored men alike. The colored man understands this, and, seeing no prospects of improving his condition, he is lapsing into hopelessness. If the representation of those states should be reduced, as it ought to be, it would operate as a countervailing force and tend to establish a proper political equilibrium. The importance of a large representation in congress and in the electoral college is appreciated by the white people of the South, and they would be prompted, on the one hand, to establish fair laws for the protection of their domestic institutions, and, on the other hand, to honestly administer them, and to accord the colored man the right to participate in politics as soon as he was fitted for the privilege in order to increase their representation. This would put before the negro a constant inducement to equip himself, and it would be a powerful force toward the elevation of the moral and intellectual tone of the race."

The problem here outlined is one which in some way must sooner or later be met. The best way to meet it is to meet it fairly and with courage. To the preliminary step of securing accurate information upon the subject there should be no objection from any source. Opposition may arise, and very bitter opposition, to the reduction of representation which this information may require if the provisions of the fourteenth amendment are to be carried out in good faith. But the constitution is supreme and its supremacy cannot be successfully resisted. If the white inhabitants wish to disfranchise the negro by cunning electoral qualifications, let them pay the penalty in a reduced voting strength in congress. The negro who is not good enough to vote is not good enough to be figured in as a basis of congressional representation. Upon that issue Congressman Crumpacker can take his stand and the opposition cannot prevail against him.

Commander Scannell, of the latest Fenian organization, states that the failure of the movement in the past has been due to the presence of too many generals. In the surplus of intractable leaders Fenianism appears to have been as unfortunate as the Democracy.

Now that the date of the beginning of the twentieth century has been established to the satisfaction of nearly all concerned, it is time to figure on improving the new century's opportunities.

In order to relieve mental disorders, a Philadelphia girl has just completed a fast of forty-five days. This is better than eating a quail a day for thirty days.

Those alleged Fenian uprisings appear mainly in the yellow press. They will not cause much loss of sleep.

TOLD BY THE STARS.

Daily Horoscope Drawn by Ajacchus, The Tribune Astrologer. Astrological Cast: 4:50 a. m., for Thursday, December 28, 1899.

A child born on this day will never achieve prominence unless he happens to be born in Ohio.

The college yell is equally effective whether unrestrained on the foot ball field or tuned to melodious glee club selections.

The Real Thing.

Real Wit—That which will impart flavor to an old joke.

Real Amiability—A temperament that enables man to look pleasant at the approach of a bill collector.

Real Happiness—Something that seems to be always possessed by others.

Real Courage—The ability to face something that cannot be bluffed.

Real Genius—The faculty of telling your troubles in a manner to make them interesting to the listener.

Real Statesmanship—The ability to keep the joints of the glad hand always in working order.

SONS HONOR ALMA MATER

[Concluded from Page 2]

As a member of the faculty he extended cordial greetings to the alumni of Northeastern Pennsylvania, and then of the faculty he said he wanted them to believe that no more true, earnest or unselfish set of men labored anywhere than in the undergraduate schools of the University of Pennsylvania.

In conclusion he offered congratulations on the fact that Provost Harrison had shown a full appreciation of the worth of the school of physics by providing for a new physical laboratory befitting the university.

A bass solo, "The Mighty Deep," by Albert Pillsbury, was enthusiastically applauded after which F. W. Wheaton, of Wilkes-Barre, was called upon to speak of Yale. He regretted, he said, he was not able to deal with the subject humorously. Yale, to him, during his four years course, was a serious problem. He also believed that it was somewhat of a serious problem to other colleges.

He gave an interesting history of Old Yale, illustrating the progress that she has made by saying that a man had the college named after him for giving for its foundation one million that was taken by the Yale Athletic association in gate receipts last year. In this connection he made the interesting statement that the "Big Four," Pennsylvania, Harvard, Princeton and Yale had taken in its gate receipts at athletic games, the grand total of \$290,000, and that this proved to be \$9,000 less than was required to pay the expenses of the athletic teams.

Wesley E. Woodruff, a Wesleyanite, said of "The Smaller Colleges," that there was a limit. He would not speak, he said, of "smallest colleges," those of insufficient endowment, with low or no collegiate grade which unfortunately can barter degrees for a small stipend. He believed the country would be benefited if men would strengthen the established colleges rather than establishing new colleges to perpetuate their names. He believed the country has a full supply of colleges for the next hundred years.

products Seelye, Hopkins, Dewey and Blaine.

A reference to Mrs. Harrison, wife of Provost Harrison, and Dr. Curtin, of Philadelphia, as warm partisans of "Old Pennsylvania," evoked loud applause.

A veritable ovation was given Provost Harrison when he was introduced to speak for "The University." He said it was most encouraging to those in charge of the administration of the university to see such an enthusiastic gathering of alumni.

The trustees, he was sure, would welcome a suggestion from this end of the state for some one to represent it to the board. He wanted the alumni to keep close to the university and watch and encourage its progress. Outside of the libraries and other like gifts to the school, there have been contributions in cash amounting to \$2,500,000 within five years. A gift of \$25,000 was recently presented for a new physical laboratory and he was pleased to announce for the first time publicly a Christmas gift of another \$25,000 to be used as the trustees saw fit.

The sincere desire of the trustees is, he said, that the alumni would keep before the people the worth of the university. It is the only university in the state of Pennsylvania and he trusted that it was and would continue to be a credit to the state.

A general call for a solo from Mr. Goeckel was responded to with a spirited rendition of "Red and Blue," the assemblage joining in the "Hoorah" chorus.

President Houston, of the general alumni, spoke of "State and Private Benefactions" in a witty way, with the aid of a number of laughable stories.

Speaking of the Alumni association he stated that there is a movement on foot to establish alumni scholarships. Funds sufficient for one have already been received. He urged the members to join the general society and help in the movement. The society is also engaged in gathering the names and records of all Penn men who served in the late war, with a view of honoring them by inscribing their names and deeds on the new memorial tower.

LOCAL MEN CHEER.

A reference to the work of Rev. Mr. Ballentine and the other local alumni who are foremost in furthering Pennsylvania's glory, provoked hearty applause.

When Mr. Houston had concluded, Alfred Wooler sang "Of All the Best," which was written for the occasion by Rev. Mr. Ballentine and Mr. Wooler.

O brothers dear, And did you hear, That wonderful quotation, Which some great folk, Came out and spoke, Of our association?

Now listen well, And I will tell, For I know all about it, Nor do you go, And say you do, And so begin to doubt it.

For he did write, In black and white, Nor was it in confusion, Oh no, no, no, Yes, we say so, For it was S. F. Houston.

"Of all the best, You are the best!"— He wrote not in confusion, For he did write, In pure delight, Our dear old S. F. Houston.

Houston! Houston!

O Yes, 'twas S. F. Houston, "Of all the best, You are the best."

The song was enthusiastically received.

Walter George Smith was introduced to respond to "The New Law Building" in place of Judge George M. Dallas, a member of the circuit court, who presided over the law school, who was prevented by illness from attending. Mr. Smith spoke of the utmost importance of an exact and certain knowledge in the attorney. The judge, he said, might be of the most honest of men, but if he is learned he may do you incalculable injury.

DR. MITCHELL WAS BRIEF.

The last speaker, the noted Dr. S. Weir Mitchell, contented himself with a few references to moral, religious and physical advantages afforded the medical student at Pennsylvania, which were not found, at least not wholly, at any other school.

Editor Donaldson, of the Alumni Register, said a few words in the interest of his paper, his remarks, while of a purely business nature, were so wittily couched that they proved quite as entertaining as the regular addresses.

Dr. George L. Wentz was called upon to speak for "The Young Boys," but he declined.

Adjournment was made after a banjo and mandolin duet by Dr. Hickey and Mr. Snyder.

Wilkes-Barre was chosen as the place for the next meeting.

The dinner souvenir was a neat folder with an artistically engraved cover, the central figure of the first page being a representation of the main university buildings. In addition to the menu and toast programme the interlocking pages contained a number of favorite college songs and the new one by Rev. Mr. Ballentine which Mr. Wooler sang, referred to above. The souvenir was designed by the printing committee of the alumni association—George B. Davidson, chairman; Rev. F. S. Ballentine and Dr. Walter Fordham.

The retiring officers of the association are: President, Dr. L. H. Taylor, Wilkes-Barre; vice president, Dr. J. L. Wentz, Scranton; secretary, Ezra H. Connell, Scranton; treasurer, Theodore Connell, Scranton; executive committee—Lewis Tracy, M. D., '88, Scranton; W. E. Keller, M. D., '92, Scranton; Charles H. Miner, M. D., '93, Wilkes-Barre; George B. Davidson, '88, Scranton; Edson M. Green, D. D., '91, Scranton; Walter S. Stewart, D. D., '92, Wilkes-Barre; Henry M. Beck, D. D., '83, Wilkes-Barre; F. C. Johnson, M. D., '85, Wilkes-Barre; Walter Lathrop, M. D., Hazleton; W. J. Goeckel, Wilkes-Barre; Walter Davis, M. D., Wilkes-Barre.

Luther Keller

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A New Hampshire man suffered from indigestion and liver trouble for three years. Ripans Tabules had been recommended by the physician of a friend of his for similar troubles, and he decided to try them. "I first bought a 50-cent box," he writes, "and to my great joy I found they helped me. Now I would not be without them, and shall always speak in the highest terms of them." A new style pack of containing TEN RIPANS TABLETS in a paper carton (without glass) is now for sale at some drug stores—50c PER TABLET. This new pack is pleasant for the poor and the economical. Our prices are the lowest—50c PER TABLET. This pack can be had by mail by sending forty-eight cents to the GREAT ORIENTAL COMPANY, No. 19 Spruce Street, New York—or a single carton (TEN TABLETS) will be sent for five cents.