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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, JANUARY 1, 1900.

The Philadelphia Inquirer objects to the curfew law because "it is the duty of parents to look after the moral welfare of their children." a statement none will dispute. But what is to be done when parents will not perform their duty?

The New Year.

ONDITIONS are all propitious for a happy New Year. There has never been a more satisfactory state of business, More wage-earners are now employed in productive industry than ever before and their earnings, as measured in the comforts open to purchase, upon the average were never higher. This means that the widest diffusion of prosperity which it is possible to achieve under the prevalent industrial system has been accomplished. Nothing so discourages a man or menaces society as enforced idleness or labor performed at a scale of remuneration insufficient to meet the unavoidable expenses of life; and on the contrary, no condition this side of paradise is so satisfactory as that which enables every industrious men to apply his ability in a manner productive of a comfortable Income, under circumstances which do not discourage hope of appreciation

Applying this standard to the American people as they cross the threshold of the new year, we find that from the economic standpoint there is infinitely more to be thankful for and infinitely more incentive to encouragement than has been true for a number of years past. There are perplexities and injustices, to be sure, but the proportion which these bear to the situation as a whole is relatively to other years a small one. The man who has no other resource than his labor is not in all respects to be envied; if he is wise he will this day firmly resolve to lay up of his earnings, week by week and month by month, enough to protect from every standpoint unwise. him and his against an always possible period of adversity. Yet one year ago, two years ago, or, in fact, at any past laboring man would have experienced wages. The industrious, intelligent and accommodating them. proficient workman begins the year 1900 with the happy fact confronting him that more men are anxious to secure them than ever before; and the enor-American industry and commerce now in progress insure that this condition siderable period to come.

That which is true as to labor is of course true as to capital, with the qualification that men of means who possess to a large degree the speculative mania are at this moment reaping a small portion of the inevitable harvest of folly. Money abounds for legitimate and intelligent investment; the real wealth of the country was never greater, and the men who possess generous portions of this wealth are as a rule ready and willing to take the steps which will result in their possessing more, provided that the steps impress them as being safe steps and not missteps leading to disaster. But if the gamblers are not so active or prosperous as they were during the stock-watering era of a few months ago; if some of the gas in these inflated big capitalizations which we used to read so much about is being liberated under the pressure for money needed in honorable channels, those will chiefly lose who were figuring upon making others lose, and the recoil of their projects will illustrate poetic jus-

Materially, then, the New Year begins underneath a bow of promise. Intellectually and morally the outlook is equally cheerful. Opportunities for self-advancement by means of culture were never so numerous or so available as today; and they are multiplying rapidly enough to keep up with the demand. Nothing prevents the poorest child from securing a good education, from associating with influences tending to develop him morally and spiritually, and from finding a place in life in keeping with his merits. So far from the door being harder to open or the ladder harder to climb, because of the alleged multiplication of great fortunes and of the favorites thereby supplied with "pulls," the reverse is true, for the very reason that the poor boy has both a better chance to qualify himself to rise in life and a larger field of selection than ever before; and now, as always, it is the strong man that counts. To the man in mature life this day should be significant because of the privilege which is his to see the high standards of welfare characterizing this time; to the youth it should be pregnant with inspiring possibilities,

Secretary Gage will resign simultaneously with Billy Mason.

No More Tail Twisting. BORROWING of trouble is indulged in by Walter Wellman, Washington correspondent of the Chicago Times-Herald. He is convinced that the Democratic politicians of the national capital are preparing to take advantage of the British reverses in South Africa to stir up in the United States an anti-British sentiment which they hope to utilize for partisan purposes. "What a war in South Africa has to do with politics in the United States myy," says he, "be somewhat of a puzzle to the average man in the street, but here is the argument as the

their minds: First, the 'plain people' of the United States are against England; second, the Republican administration has concluded some sort of alliance or understanding with Great Britain, more or less secretly and more er less to England's advantage; third, there is more sympathy in this country or the Boers than there is for the Filipines, but if we make a red-hot ampaign of anti-imp-rialism, using England's desire to oppress the Boer epublics as our chief horrible examole, and connect that with the atempt of the United States to subdue the Filipinos, perhaps we can stir up a feeling that will hurt the Republeans next year." Mr. Wellman continues: "During the

last few days Democratic senators have begun to take an interest in Senator Mason's Boer sympathy resolution, and Mr. Mason now claims he has a majority of the senate for it. He is quite hepeful of getting a vote, and points out that it is merely a renate resolution, and does not require the approval of the president, so that it could be passed without dragging in the administration. It is also said Senator Burrows, of Michigan, is prepared to make a speech in behalf of the Mason resolution. Mr. Eurrows has a great many Hollanders among his constituents. An interesting question, viewed from the Washington standpoint, is this: If the Democrats start playing politics in such a way as to take advantage of the arti-English sentiment prevailing among certain classes of the population, may not the administration be forced into some counter move? And, if so, what form would it be likely to take? Mediation, repudiation of Anglo-Saxon understanding, or a strong tail-twisting message over the Alaska boundary?"

An opinion at this distance as to what may be done by the politicians at Washington would possess no value; but if the men at the head of the administration keep true to their records they will not be deflected from the pathway of obvious duty by passing fluctuations in evanescent public sentiment. Though it be true that honest Americans differ widely in their estimates as to the merits of England's present controversy with the Transvaal, very many of them looking at the subject through their sympathies for the "under dog," yet no American who stops to weigh the matter can wish to see his government repay England's kindnesses of two years ago by a policy of tail-twisting for political effect. We have no quarrel with England. We have no interest in the Boers. The South African war is a war in which we cannot interfere in any way without inviting consquences

The truth of this is so obvious that we do not see how much political capital can be made for the Democratic time, barring abnormal intervals, the party by agitating the matter. But if they should try to make an issue of more difficulty than he experiences to- this kind there need be no hesitancy day in securing satisfactory work and on the part of the administration in

President Schurman's opinion that where the flag has been raised in the his services and make a profit out of performance of duty, as in the Philippines, it must not be hauled down mous diversification and expansion of should carn for him the everlasting contempt of every copperhead in the land.

Our Lesson.

N HIS ARTICLE in last week's Independent concerning the Philippine situation President Schurman said: "I regret that the Americans allowed the saloon to get a foothold on the islands. That has hurt the Americans more than anything else and the spectacle of Americans drunk awakens disgust in the Filipinos. We suppressed the cock fight there but left the saloon to flourish. One emphasized the Filipino frailty and the other the American vice. I have never seen a Filipino drunkard." In George Keenan's article in the

Outlook of Dec. 23 upon "Cuban Character" a similar regret is expressed. He says he had been in Cuba almost six months before he saw a Cuban perceptibly under the influence of intoxicating liquor. "Almost all Cubans drink," says he, "but they are the most temperate people, nevertheless, that I have ever known. Even in hours of triumph and periods of great emotional excitement, when over-indulgence might be expected if not excused, the Cuban seldom loses his head to such an extent as to become noisy, disorderly, or offensive. I witnessed in Santa Clara, Cienfuegos, and Havana three great popular demonstrations in honor of General Gomez, when there were reunions of old army comrades, celebrations of victories won by Cuban arms, and scenes of almost unparalleled excitement and passion; did not notice in the crowded cafes or in the surging throngs on the streets a single intoxicated Cuban soldier or civilian. About the middle of last January the people of Matanzas had a triumphal celebration, lasting four days, of their deliverance from Spanish rule. Nearly a thousand Cuban soldiers came into the city from neighboring camps; five hundred negro men and women formed in a solid column at night, and danced half a mile down one of the principal streets, to the accompaniment of delirious shouts and cries and the frenzied beating of tom-toms and drums; and the whole city went literally wild with patriotic enthusiasm and excitement. Although the cafes and drinking-saloons were all open, as usual, the Cuban population remained perfectly sober, and General Sanger, who was then governor of the city, told me that, so far as he could remember, there was not a single arrest for drunkenness or disorder in the whole four days. Is there a city or town in the United States of which as much could be said at the end of an annual Fourth of July celebration of American independence? Drunken American soldiers I have seen in Cuba, by

Mr. Keenan continues: "In many parts of the island, and at many different times, my national and racial pride was deeply wounded, not Democratic leaders have it outlined in to say humbled, by the glaring con-

thumbs."

the score if not by the hundred, but

all the drunken Cuban soldiers I have

ever seen might be counted on my

trast between American Intemperance and Cuban sobriety. In Baracoa one afternoon I happened to see three or four drunken American soldiers staggering down the street toward the postoffice, under the eyes of a dozen or more sober and observing Cubans. In the faces of the latter was a halfpitying, half-contemptuous expression which seemed to say, 'How is it possible for human being to make such beasts of themselves?" There was justification enough, perhaps, for the expression, but it irritated me nevertheess. In courage, in honesty, in capacity, and in all that goes to make true manhood, those American soldiers were immeasurably superior to the Cubans who stood, clear-eyed and sober, on the sidewalks and looked after them with disgust and contempt. I had no doubt whatever that three-fourths of those very Cubans would lie without scruple, steal if they had a good opportunity, and go contentedly for three months at a time without a bath; but drunkenness did not happen to be their

We are accustomed to exult somewhat patronizingly at the instruction which awaits the inhabitants of the new dependencies as a result of American intervention and sovereignty. May it not be possible that this education will in some degree be reciprocal?

It is announced that every nation in Europe excepting one has put in writing its verbal assurances to the United States of an "open door" in China. The exception is Russia, whose officlais are "thinking the matter over." It will not look well for Russia to be the dog in the Oriental manger.

Some comment has been occasioned by the fact that in the make-up of the senate committees Senator Beveridge, of Indiana, was put on the Philippines committee, the most important assignment which a new senator ever received. Maybe Beveridge will show that he is worthy of it.

Cuba's future depends wholly upon the education of the natives, and the sooner a general system of free public instruction is inaugurated throughout the island the better it will be for all concerned.

We quite agree with the Olyphant lazette that every man who wishes to be well-informed on current affairs should serve as a juryman. It is an invaluable education.

TOLD BY THE STARS. Daily Horoscope Drawn by Ajacchus, The Tribune Astrologer.

Astrolabe Cast: 12.01 a. m., for Monday, January 1, 1900.

A child born on this day will wish its friends of the nineteenth or twentieth

century a Happy New Year. Poetry and paneakes are to a certain extent in the same class. They are apt to produce like effects on the liver if indulged in to excess. The new year cannot be accused of

ringing in the January thaw. Origin of Expressions:

It was the man who fell on a buzz saw who was "much cut up." "Silence is golden." is the remark made by a man who attempted to suppress an

"The race is not always for the slow" may have resulted from meditations of the anti-machine politicians. "Much in little" evidently originated at

Some Facts About the New Century

Charleston News and Courier.

the business end of a warp.

The twentieth certury will commence on January 1, 1861. It will open on Tues-day and close on Sunday. It will have the greatest number of leap years possi-ble-twenty-four. The year 1391 will be the first one, then every fourth year af-ter that, to and including the year 2009. Pebruary will have three times five Sundays-in 1920, 1948 and 1976. In 1991, federal memorial day. Fourth of July and Thanksgiving day will occur the same day in the week. Then, after that the same thing will helpen at the following intervals: 6, 11, 11, 6, 11, 11 years and so on, or in 1807, 1918, 1929, 1935, and so on. In the years 1912, 1914, 1969, and 1996 there are four holldays that will fall on the same day in the week-the three already mentioned and Washington's birthday anniversary, as also the 25th of February.

Thanksgiving day and Christmas will occur the same day in the week in 1995, and then at successive intervals of 11, 6, 11, 11, 6, 11 years, and so on; also in 1928, 1956 and 1984. March 4 will fall on Sunday in the inaugural years 1917, 1998 and 1973. The same yearly calendar that was used in 1885 can be used again in 1861. The fellowing years, in order, beginning with 1991, the dates of Easter for the first twenty-five years of the continue. first twenty-five years of the century April 7. March 30, April 12, 2, 23, 15, March April 7, March 39, April 12, 2, 23, 15, March 31, April 9, 11, March 27, April 16, 7, March 29, April 12, 4, 23, 8, March 31, April 20, 4, March 27, April 16, 1, 29, 12. The earliest possible date on which Easter can occur is March 23. The last time it occur is March 25. The last time it occurred on this date was in 1818, but it will not occur again until after the twentieth century. The latest Easter can occur is April 26, and it will thus occur once in the coming century-in 1943. The last time it occurred was April 25, 1886. Whenever Easter occurs on March 27, or April 8, 10 17 or 24, Christmas also occurs on Sunday. Though one of the objects aimed at by the church authorities who fixed upon the method of determining the date of Easter was to prevent its occurring on the same date as the Jewish Passover, nevertheless the two events will occur to-gether four times in the twentieth cen-tury-April 12, 1903; April 1, 1923; April 17, 1927, and April 19, 1981.

The twentieth century will contain 36,-525 days, which lacks one day of being exactly 5,218 weeks. The day of the week that will not occur as often as each of the others is Monday. Fifteen out of the hundred years will begin on Wednesday and the same number on Friday. Fourteen will begin on each of the other days of the week. Several announcements are made of changes to be inaugurated with the opening of the new century. The first of importance is that Russia will acopt the Gregorian calendar. This will be done by omitting thirteen days, the amount of the error that will have accumulated after the close of February, 1900. The Russian will then write January 1, 1901, instead of December 19, 1906. The other important announcement is that it is not at all likely that the astronomical day, which now begins at noon of the civil day, will begin with the civil day at midnight. The present method of having the astronomical day to begin twelve hours after the beginning of the civil day is apt to be confusing. On the other hand, to have the former begin to the civil day is to have the former begin at midnight will be to them somewhat inconvenient.

As to eclipses in the coming centure

very rare occurrence in a calendar year will happen in 1935, the first time since 1823, viz.: Seven eclipses, the largest possible number that can happen in a year. There are eight total solar eclipses predicted to occur visible in the United States in 1918, 1923, 1945, 1984, 1994. There will also occur twelve transits of Mercury. A transit of Venus, however, which is of much more importance, will not occur within the next century. The earliest date predicted is June 8, 2004. While it is claimed at least 1,000 comets come within visible range of the earth within a cen-tury, there is reasonable certainty of the tury, there is reasonable certainty of the recurrence of but one extraordinary comet in the next century. That one is known as Hailey's. It was last seen in 1835. It will be due again in 1840 or 1911. The exact time is not known, owing to slight modification in its orbit, due to planetary influence. Of course, it is not impossible for some hitherto unobserved comed to be seen to the last but the beautiful of the course in all the blanks given comet to agreen in all its blazing glery at any time. No astronomer knows. Of famous meteoric showers there will probably be three recurrences of the Leonids in 1932, 1965 and 1968, as in the present cen-

tury, one being due November 13 of this PERSONALITIES.

The German emperor's income is put down by experts at \$13,000,000 per annum, his civil list alone amounting to \$3,852,800 Louis Vasquez, the champion billiard player of Spain, is on his way to New York, after a year spent in Mexico, Cuba and South America. C. J. Hamlin, of Buffalo, has presented

C. J. Hamlin, of Buffalo, has presented East Aurora, near that city, with land costing over \$7,800, to be used for a public park and athletic field.

Miss Helen Long, who has presided over the home of the secretary of the navy for two years, has the degree of M. D. from Johns Hopkins.

Cardinal Moran, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Sydney, is an up-to-date prelate. The angelus bell of his cathe-

dral is now rung by electricity. Howard Pyle, the well-known illustra-tor, has turned an old mill near Chadd's ford, Pa., into a picturesque studio, and worked there through the warm days.

The gift to Admiral Dewey while in Boston of the Massachusetts Daughters of the Revolution was an immense bouiet of 150 American Beauty roses standing 512 feet high.

ing 5½ feet high.

Miss Ceceila Beaux, of Philadelphia, has been appointed as the only woman on the jury to select exhibits for the United States fine arts department at the Paris Exposition.

Dr. Henry J. Schenck has just completed his twelfth year as dog constable of Boston, during which time he has killed over 1000 uniteensed dogs. He

killed over 10,000 unlicensed dogs. He gets \$1 for each dog he kills, but his ex-

penses are not small.

The Degree of Doctor of Philosophy honoris causa has been conferred on Mrs. Agnes Smith Lewis, of Cambridge, England, by Halle university. Mrs. Lewis discovered the Syriac Gospels on Mount

discovered the Syriac Gospels on Mount Sinai and edited them.

Commissioner William A. Jones, after careful study of the subject, has come to the conclusion that "a full-blooded Indian lunatic never lived." He holds that insanity was not known to the red man until he began mixing with the whites. A new writer has risen in an Indiana town whose stories seem to appeal alike to children and their elders. Her name is Clara Yawter, and she lives in Greenfield, the same little Hoosier town from which James Whitcomb Riley first halled. King Humbert, of Italy, is said to be the most bight insured monarch in the the most highly insured monarch in the world. He carries policies aggregating \$7,000,000, and has \$20,000,000 invested through the Rothschilds in London. He is said to have saved most of this out of nis civil list of \$2,650,000.

The only reason announced for the giving by Mme. Patti of a full performance in her theater at Craig-y-Nos of the opera "Traviata" is that she desires to bring pleasure to her husband, who, with the exception of a few invited friends, will be the sole spectator. friends, will be the sole spectator.

In reply to a letter of inquiry from the editor of the Christian Advocate, General Frederick Funston, of Kansas, writes that he was born in New Carlisle, O. He says his mother's family was from

North Carolina and that he is related to the Virginia family of his name. Lionel Decle, the author of "Trooper 3809." which has made a stir, revealing as it does conditions in the French army,

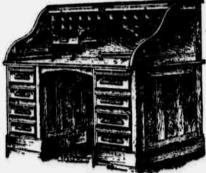
as it does conditions in the French army, has been principally known heretofore as an African explorer. In 1891 he started on a journey from the Cape of Uganda, and thence to Zanzibar. He has been in Africa several times since.

A recent arrival at San Francisco was Miss Pauline Drollet, who is looked upon by the natives of Pepelti of the South Sea Islands as their Queen. As a direct descendant of a former King of the islands she would be Queen in fact had it not been for an edict of the French

it not been for an edict of the French government in her childhood.

A quarter of a century ago Charles Broadway Rouss, the blind millionaire, was imprisoned in New York for debt, and Mr. Rouss likes to tell about it as an example of the workings of an absurd law long since repealed. On the walls of the Ludlow Street jail may still be seen the inscription he then cut there: "When I leave here I shall be a rich man.

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A Kentucky school teacher who had for years endured what she describes as A Kentucky school teacher who had for years endured what she describes as "perfect martyrdom," from headache and dyspepsia, writes, in a letter from Louisville, to say: "When I was teaching school in Pittsburg, Laurel County, a friend, a merchant there, who has also suffered much from dyspepsia and headache, said he had found a sure cure for these diseases in Ripans Tabules, and he gave me a few to try. I found my headache left me. I then sent to New York, to the manufacturer, for a box, and whenever troubled with indigestion took them. I soon found myself much better; but, after some months and after indulging imprudently in eating, I again suffered from my old enemy—'indigestion.' I sent to Louisville and got a box. Finding great relief from this I got another, which certainly proved my confidence in the medicine. I grew so much better that I now only take them when I find I need them; but if I am impruck at in eating I find nothing better than these Tabules. Being the medicine. I grew so much better that I now only take them when I much them; but if I am imprudent in eating I find nothing better than these Tabules. Being a teacher, I lead a sedentary life, so that oftentimes I find myself bilious and feeling heavy and dull; then I avail myself of the good effects of Ripans Tabules. The gentleman from whom I bought the first Tabules tells me that he has found them more beneficial in sick headache than any other remedy. Like myself, he thinks they are lefallible in despensia."

A new style packet containing THE RITARS TABLERS in a paper carton without glass) is now for mic at some drug stores — FOR FIVE CEPTS. This low prived sort is intended for the poor and the economical. One dozen of the five cent cartons (10 tablers) can be had by mail by sending forty-eight cents to the Elfram Cannical Tournate No. 16 Spruce Street, New York — or a single carton (YMF TABLER) will be saint for Eve cannot be controlled to the carton to the control of th