

The Scranton Tribune

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When space will permit, The Tribune is always glad to print short letters from its friends bearing on current topics, but the rule is that these must be signed, for publication, by the writer's real name; and the condition precedent to acceptance is that all contributions of whatever nature and by whomsoever sent shall be subject to editorial revision.

TWELVE PAGES.

SCRANTON, JANUARY 20, 1900.

REPUBLICAN CITY TICKET.

SCHOOL DIRECTORS.—C. C. Ferber, E. D. Fellows.

In Chicago buffet attachments are to be added to the street car service so that hungry passengers can secure food and drink while traveling.

Mayor and Spenk-Easies.

IT IS NOT CLEAR why the mayor should need the help of a committee of councilmen in order to formulate a plan for suppressing the "spenk-easies" or securing the additional revenue which would result from their being compelled to take out licenses.

The merits of General Leonard Wood have been pretty well exploited in this country, but the greatest one remains to be told.

Let The Public Protect Itself.

THE PUBLIC will notice that the talk of a mine strike in this region does not originate here, but is proclaimed as far away as Indianapolis, a city situated in the center of the bituminous coal fields.

Why is it not equally the right and duty of the mine owners and miners of this valley to settle their differences among themselves? Why should the anthracite coal industry be attacked as a kite to the soft coal industry, and the workmen of our valley yoked to all the troubles and frictions of the bituminous district?

Every man of intelligence connected with the anthracite industry, whether as an employer or an employee, and every other conservative, fair-minded citizen, whatever his vocation, knows that a strike in our mines at any time, and at this time more especially, would be a misfortune for which there could not possibly be adequate compensation.

In making recent charges against the anti-administrators, ex-Minister Barrett has aroused a flood of "ominous silence" in certain quarters.

Make It General.

THE PROPOSITION to require the next mayor of Scranton to give a \$10,000 bond as an indemnity in case he should forget to turn over police court files as required by law has its humorous side.

Efficient Councilman Melvin is in some uncertainty on this point and proposes to make assurances doubly sure by returning the next mayor to give financial security to the city.

suggestion is good as far as it goes; but it does not go far enough. The troubles of our town do not all originate with the mayor. His responsibilities are not trifling, but it must not be forgotten that connected with him in the running of the government are 42 councilmen, some of whom, upon occasions past, have, it is said, not even had a property owner's natural interest in economical government at the time of their first election to office, because at that time they did not own property.

If before a councilman could qualify he should be required to furnish a \$10,000 bond that he would not succumb to the blandishments of street railway, telephone or other lobbyists; that he would not interest himself improperly, either directly or indirectly, in city contracts; that he would not use the ward appropriation in the payment of campaign debts but would expend it honestly and faithfully for the good of the city; that he would carry into the deliberations of councils a clean purpose to do his duty without fear or special favor, and that he would fear to the line, letting the chips fall where they might.

So long as Julian Hawthorne does not accuse the late Mr. Westcott of having written any of Kipling's stuff, the relatives of the dead novelist should try to keep up under the ridiculous story regarding the authorship of "David Harum."

An Object Lesson.

FIFTY YEARS AGO, three sisters and two brothers by the name of Wilson, residents of Brooklyn, all of whom were old enough to work for a living, appointed one of the brothers treasurer and agreed to turn all of their earnings into a common fund, from which the necessary housekeeping expenses were to be paid and the remainder invested for the benefit of all.

In the fifty years property to the value of more than \$100,000 was accumulated, and this did not include any extraordinary rises in property values but simply the natural result of close economy and shrewd judgment in the placing of investments.

The case of Julian Hawthorne is a startling illustration of the blighting effects of yellow journalism upon genius.

President Snow's testimonial to Mr. Roberts proved to be a veritable bilzarard.

Venezuela is uncertain these days whether she has a government or not.

TOLD BY THE STARS.

Daily Horoscope Drawn by Ajacchus, The Tribune Astrologer.

A child born on this day will realize that it is often a misfortune that we cannot analyze some men until it is too late.

Current strike stories are evidently like news from Ladsymith, written at quite a distance from the scene of action.

Marriage is not a failure in many instances. It is more apt to be the husband.

The average husband is in doubt as to whether it is the bargain counter or the cooking school that contains the greatest element of danger.

Friendship, like wine, should improve with age.

have also a fundamental separation between the Caucasian and the Malay races. The co-ordination of the latter with the former has never been accomplished in any part of the world and cannot be considered as among the possibilities of our Oriental dependencies.

But in Puerto Rico we are dealing principally with a branch of our own racial stock, containing no possibilities of assimilation but on the contrary much promise of development in the next and succeeding generations.

The scheme to allow Brigham Roberts to take his seat in congress and then expel him, will scarcely be agreed to by wide-awake members of the house. A man unfit to remain in is not fit to get in.

For a Neutral Canal.

IT IS ASSERTED that in view of the disposition exhibited in congress to authorize the building of a canal across Nicaragua under conditions which would Americanize both shores for a sufficient space to prevent foreign encroachments, the diplomatic representatives of Great Britain and Germany have notified our state department of their intention to protest if there should ever be an attempt on the part of the United States to close the canal to other nations in time of war.

What truth there is in these representations we do not know, but they impress us as reasonable. To attempt to close the canal in time of war to the warships of any hostile power save by attacking and destroying those ships before they could reach the entrance to the canal would, as a matter of strategy, be ridiculous; and as a matter of policy it would be equally shortsighted.

The Nicaragua canal, when built, will be an American institution, but it need not be fenced in.

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In the opinion of General Buckner, Democracy and Bryanism cannot lunch on the same meal ticket.

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Friendship, like wine, should improve with age.

Do not become excited over news from Ladsymith or the state of the weather. You can't help it.

CASUAL SMILES.

His Strong Box. Lawyer—You say the miser kept his gold in a strong box. Witness—Yes, sir. He kept it in an empty hamburger cheese box.—Chicago News.

The White Man's Burden. Smith—My congratulations, old man. I hear you have another increase in your family. Son or daughter? Jones (sadly)—Worse; a son-in-law.—York Evening World.

Drove Him Away. Lady—Here, take this broom and water and scrub down the dog house. Tramp—Never, ma'am! Dat's why I left my nappy home. Lady—What for? Tramp—House-cleaning.—Chicago News.

Loyalty. "What did you smash 'im for?" "He insulted a frien' er mine." "Who awas?" "Why, did he say?" "He said dat nex' ter me, my frien' wad do mos' lew'n' pussa in dis community."—Washington Star.

The Proportion of Rich Men to Poor.

From the Philadelphia Ledger.

THERE is a part of the American newspaper press which is under the impression, or, at least, says it is, that in this country "the poor are growing poorer and the rich richer" as time goes on. These public journals, which are not all of the generally offensive yellowish hue, have the hearty support of their own alien Socialists and Anarchists, whose creed is the robbery of the "robber," but of our domestic Socialists and Anarchists, some of whom call themselves social philosophers, or political economists, and others, if these workers of mischief and sowers of discontent among the masses are all untaught, illiterate, or mere selfish, sordid demagogues, they would be much less dangerous to the institutions of society and government than they really are, as they are not confined to their own party, but are to be found in the editors' chairs of otherwise respectable newspapers, or among the teachers of the colleges and universities, or in the contributors' pages of the magazines and the more pretentious reviews.

The contention of the Socialists and Anarchists that the rich are growing richer and the poor poorer would be difficult if it were true, but it is indubitable facts to prove its inaccuracy. A single local condition will go far to disprove the verity of the contention; it is thousands upon thousands of the snug, comfortable homes of hundreds of thousands of the wage and salary earners of Philadelphia. They have the latest equipment in lighting, heating, ventilating, furnishing, and in cooking, bathing and sanitary arrangements, elements of good living which a generation ago only would have been actually the prerogative of the aristocracy of all but the few very rich folk.

That the wage and salary earners are not obliged to spend all they get upon the necessities of life, and that a considerable margin is made clear by the official report of the controller of the currency, recently issued from Washington, of the business done by the savings banks of the country during the savings banks of the country during the year 1899.

Table with 2 columns: Description and Amount. Includes Number of Savings Banks in United States, Total deposits, Surplus, Sundry assets, and Total assets for 1899.

These figures refute the Socialists, Anarchists and demagogues of all degrees who contend that the poor are growing poorer in this country. What else they say is of no value to the citizen, and the government assurance of certain stability, of security from the practical operations of the Anarchists' creed that the wage earner in the savings bank is his property, his capital, and as dear to him as are the property and capital of his wealthiest neighbor.

PERSONALITIES.

James Jackson, heir to the throne of Kabinia, is janitor of a flat in San Francisco. Henry W. Corbett, United States senator from Oregon, went to New York in 1844 and worked in a store for \$3.9 a week.

George Gould, who has the fox-hunting fever very badly, has just purchased outright one of the finest and largest packs of fox hounds in England.

Edith Wheeler Wilson, who thinks the successful man "is one who has made a happy home for his wife and children, no matter what he has done in the way of winning money or fame."

It is said that Levi Z. Leiter, the Chicago millionaire, intends to erect a handsome monument in the old Ledor graveyard in the level Strife farm, near Hagerstown, Md., where he was born.

Dorsey W. Shackelford, who takes Bland's old seat in congress, is a rich man. He made his money in the large zinc and lead mines of Camden county, Mo., of the best of which he is practically the owner.

Rev. Dr. Lyman Abbott was always cultivated in the art of using public libraries. He spends much of his leisure time in the old Astor library of New York before a table literally burdened down with books and papers.

John Morley has just been unanimously elected honorary president of the Oxford Palmerston club. This post was occupied by Gladstone from the club's foundation in 1871 until his death, since which time it has been vacant.

maker, has just entered his ninetieth year. It is now just forty years since he was knighted for his discovery of the Armstrong breech-loading gun.

Emperor Wilhelm has ordered his court to learn the Koomagay, a sort of minuet. It is an extremely difficult dance to master, and Professor Louis Pottak, who is a justice of the peace at Miskolcz, Hungary, has been ordered to Berlin to teach the court. He was recommended to the emperor by the leader of the opera.

John Jacob Astor owns one of the most valuable manuscripts in this country. It is the famous Borgia missal, and was bought for \$15,000. It measures 15 1/2 inches, has 184 pages of vellum and is bound in red morocco. It was made and decorated by Giovanni Bazzani by the great Florentine artist, Francesco Filippo Lippi.

Mrs. Lydia A. B. Woods, who died recently in New York, bequeathed \$100,000 each to York and Falls City, in that state, to establish public libraries similar to the one which Mrs. Woods gave, while living, to Humboldt.

Colonel Northcott, who was killed in the Modder river fight, has done some excellent natural history work in the Gold Coast hinterland, and was looking forward to returning to that part of Africa to prosecute his zoological studies.

Many of the nurses who went to South Africa with the Canadian troops are members of well-to-do families in the Dominion. The head nurse, for example, is the youngest sister of Joseph Pope, under secretary of state.

Dr. John Conte Fairfax, a practicing physician of Baltimore, Md., is the eleventh Baron Fairfax of Cameron. His right to the British title is acknowledged by the house of lords and by all the authorities on pedigree, but Dr. Fairfax has not the money to support a peerage. The sixth baron lived in Virginia, and was a close friend of Washington.

Alfred S. Hartwell, who has consented to represent Fairfax at Washington as an unofficial territorial delegate at the coming session of congress, has for thirty years been one of the leading members of the bar of Hawaii. In 1858 he was appointed first associate justice of the Supreme court, becoming subsequently attorney general in 1874 and 1876.

THE MAGIC LETTER.

There was a little maiden once, In fairy days gone by, Whose every thought and every word Always began with "I like," "I want," "I wish," "I say," "I like," "I want," "I will."

Her schoolmates would not play with her, Her parents tried in vain To teach her better, and one day Poor "I" cried out in pain.

The fairies heard, and heeded too, They caught poor "I" away And nursed him into health again Through many an anxious day; And in his place they softly slipped A broader, stronger letter:

"The more she uses that," they said, "With roguish smiles, 'the better!'"

She grew to use it steadily And liked it more and more, It came to fill a larger place Than "I" had done before; And each year found the little maid More kind and sweet and true.

What was the magic letter's name? Why, can't you guess? 'Twas "I!" —Boston Beacon.

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