

The Scranton Tribune

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

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New York Office: 150 Nassau St. S. S. VREELAND, 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 shall be subject to editorial revision.

TWELVE PAGES.

SCRANTON, JANUARY 27, 1900.

REPUBLICAN CITY TICKET.

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

The Tribune has received an anonymous letter questioning the claim of our correspondent, "Taylorville Miner," to be a miner; this is as much as to accuse The Tribune of lying when it introduced his series of letters. We repeat that "Taylorville Miner" is an actual miner who has been through every strike he describes.

There Are Limits.

COLONEL BRYAN'S notion of an independent Filipino republic under American protection would involve ten-fold the "militarism" and "imperialism" incident to direct American control of the Philippines. For as it is now, we need only enough soldiers to establish and maintain order among the natives; but if the Aguinaldo type of plotter who would hold the offices in a Filipino republic knew that the United States stood pledged to back them up in anything they might do, they would probably have us involved in war with some other power nine-tenths of the time. While the European nations would respect our title if we directly asserted sovereignty they might not so readily acknowledge our right to set up a firebrand "independent" government where it would be likely to scatter sparks of trouble among their near-by colonies and dependencies. We had hard work getting the European powers to respect our Monroe doctrine which warned them off our immediate continent. Is it likely that they would permit us to build a diplomatic dead line around a so-called independent government in far off Asia and meekly acquiesce when we told them that this Malay dictatorship must be permitted to do as it pleased? There are limits to international forbearance.

Such support as Roberts got came mostly from the Democrats. They are apparently wedded to every wrong side.

As to Limiting Inheritances.

THE PRESIDENT of the New York Bar association recently proposed that the state should fix a limit to the value of inheritances, his own idea being that, for four reasons, no man ought to be allowed to hand down more than \$10,000,000. First, there is at the present day no good purpose to be served by giving a man power to transmit more than \$10,000,000; second, the great power which great wealth gives cannot be entrusted as safely to those who inherit the wealth as to those who acquire it by their own exertions, third, no vested right would be infringed and no injustice done to anyone by the proposed legislation; fourth, a great deal can be done for the amelioration of social conditions, the betterment of the masses of the people and the enhancement of civilization with the money which would come to the treasury if the state were the heir of the surplus of every man's fortune above \$10,000,000.

As with certain other forms of taxation, which apparently dodge some persons and hit others, the question of erecting a ten million dollar limit to inheritances is one which does not seem to come very close home to the great majority of people. Yet it is of more or less direct interest to all, for should such a limit, or one like it, be fixed, the benefit would accrue to the people in bulk, inasmuch as it would tend to discourage the upbuilding of great family fortunes which are the bane of republics and impel men of large wealth to do as Andrew Carnegie is doing, distribute their surplus while alive to watch over its use. It would not be confiscation, for the right to acquire and hold property does not necessarily imply the right to bequeath it unconditionally. The laws governing the transmission of property after death are creations of the state which the state can annul or modify at pleasure. Attacks upon the constitutionality of inheritance taxes have almost uniformly failed in our higher courts, the principle prevailing that while man is entitled to enjoy the fruits of his labor and is not to be dispossessed except as a penalty for some transgression of the public weal, it rests with the community to say on what terms he may give away that which is his, for the community, no less than the giver and the receiver, is a party in interest.

Opium Smoking and Morphine.

THE WHOLE civilized world is excited over the death of a young girl in Philadelphia from the results of smoking opium and the case is cited as a horrible example of the influence of the heathen Chinese over the Christian young woman who would save his soul. Too much cannot be said on the subject and too rigid authority cannot be exercised over the foolish young girls who, from a morbid and mistaken idea of religious duty, become the teachers of the Chinese according to the methods usually adopted. That there is contamination and pollution for the girl is too certain a sequel.

The facts of the case under discussion, however, seem to indicate that the Philadelphia opium victim was not a sufferer from the debauching influence of the Chinese as much as from representatives of her own race, Americans who themselves were opium fiends. There is apparently no certainty that she taught the Chinese in Sunday school, as it is denied that she was in any way connected with the church at first named in the reports. The fact remains that she had acquired the habit and knew as much if not more of the methods employed in her fatal debauch.

To repeat the statement made above, it is well to give wide publicity to the case as an awful warning to parents and to over-devotional young girls. But there is another side to the opium question on which physicians, clergymen and the press are too silent and that is the vast growth of the morphine habit among people of all classes. The little hypodermic needles, the tiny bottles filled with the insidious drug, is just as easily procured as the "hop" which killed the young

temperament it is not a question of election; what he feeds on is notoriety and applause. Let him be the big feature in the Democratic main show and he will not care who may become president.

Mr. Wanmaker's North American occupied part of its first page in yesterday issue in a black-faced type announcement of how Colonel Bryan had complimented it for its opposition to the McKinley administration's Philippine policy. Colonel Bryan's compliment was shrewdly bestowed. The man who served in Harrison's cabinet is rendering lots of assistance to the Democracy these days.

The Vice Presidency.

OUR ESTEEMED contemporary, the Wilkes-Barre Record, asks if the leaders of the dominant faction of the Republican party in Pennsylvania are ready and willing to accept Hon. Charles Emory Smith for the vice presidency. We cannot speak for them. They must answer for themselves. Some of them, we know, are. Others, if not ready now, will be when the party sentiment shall demand it. The main question is, Do the Republican people of Pennsylvania want their state honored and their party strengthened by the nomination on the presidential ticket of a man possessing the attractive and creditable qualities of the present postmaster general? And if so, are they willing to give expression to their preference in sentiment which the party leaders will appreciate and respect?

The Record intimates that there are Republicans in this state who have been "bitter and relentless enemies" of Mr. Smith. We are not informed on this subject. We should be surprised if it were true. Mr. Smith, in his relations toward the unhappy factional divisions long prevalent in our commonwealth, has always had and has clearly expressed strong and manly opinions; but he has never descended to mud-throwing; he has never played the sneak, the hypocrite or the bearer of false witness; he has invariably retained his dignity, his character and his self respect. Few men who, from environment, personal friendships or a different understanding of questions at issue, may in the past have been differently aligned than the accomplished former editor of the Press, have felt less than a high regard for his courtesy, his candor and his clean and gentlemanly instincts. He may have had opponents, who in the heat of factional strife have given as well as taken energetic blows; but "bitter enemies"? We do not believe it.

It is largely for the reason mentioned by the Record that we so strongly press at this time the suggestion of Mr. Smith's candidacy; namely, in order to give what the Record admits is the dominant and controlling faction an opportunity to demonstrate, in the face of the clamor by which it has been so intemperately assailed, that it does have recognition for ability, purity and integrity in public life, and that it is big enough, broad enough and brave enough to extend its hand beyond the chasm with an overture for what might be the beginning of an honorable reconciliation. In saying this we are not mushy enough to believe that reconciliation with the professional spite venter is either possible or desirable. For them there is but one fate. They must be stamped out. Among the clean and decent Republicans of our state there is, however, a growing weariness at largely professional factional strife and a feeling which resembles hope for a more harmonious political era. If the vice presidential candidacy of Charles Emory Smith would in any manner tend to knit together severed threads, its promotion by the best Republican sentiment of the commonwealth would become a public duty.

There are indications in the metropolitan press that Mr. Bryan is again becoming addicted to the camera habit.

Another Letter Concerning Water.

SIR: The burning question of the hour appears to be the water question. Nothing is more essential to the welfare and progress of any city than an ample supply of the great necessity of life, water, and at a price that would be a blessing to all and a burden to none.

The water supply of our city is not only a public utility, but it is a public trust. It is a trust which we have inherited from our fathers and which we have a duty to preserve for our children. It is a trust which we have a duty to improve and which we have a duty to protect.

It was a grand idea, perhaps a little sadistic, to build a monument in the shape of a beautiful road rivulet in Rome's famous Apian Way, around a beautiful lake on top of a high mountain, and then wring the price of it out of the community. This condition of things,

I believe, has retrograded Scranton two decades, and it seems to me the condition of trusts, syndicates and monopolies is such that the truth of Ignatius Donnelly's "Caesar's Column," or "Two Thousand A. D.," are a better way to realize than Edward Bellamy's idyllic "Looking Backward." The Iron Maiden of Wurtemburg was merciful as compared with the relentless grasp of the monopolies of today. The end came soon in her embrace; now it is linked agony, long drawn out. Electricity is measured out by volts, heat by cubic feet, to all consumers. In water here, small dealers are discriminated against to the tune of 250 per cent.

The children, the young people, the men and women of society should be adjured not only to turn aside from the temptation of the opium pipe, but also from the danger, no less menacing, of the drug habit in any form.

Montrose is agitating the canning factory enterprisers, which cannot fail to be of vast benefit if the project is carried to successful operation. The citizens of the beautiful little town on the hills have expended much energy and money in the past in promoting railroad schemes in order to provide shipping facilities, but seem to have lost heart when on the verge of prosperity. Without industries calculated to interest outside capital, the railroads have proved a curse to the town. If the people of Montrose can be persuaded to make room for the canning factory, the silk mill, or, in fact, any other industry that will furnish a market for the farmer and ready employment for the wage earner, there is no reason why, in time, it should not be one of the most prosperous of county towns in the state.

The United States circuit court of appeals agrees with the lower court, in the case of Oberlin M. Carter, convicted of swindling the government, that courts martial so long as they abide by the rules made for their procedure, are not subject to interference or review by the civil courts but have plenary jurisdiction. Carter's friends threaten to appeal to the United States Supreme court, but they might better save their money.

The recent disaster at Ashley is another argument in favor of shipping explosives in small quantities. A thirty-ton lot of dynamite is not a pleasant cargo to contemplate at any time.

It is expected that Count Boni Castellani and the editor of Figaro will continue to spurn each other until within shooting distance.

Now that the case of Mr. Roberts, of Utah, has been disposed of, the country is prepared to hear from Mr. Roberts, of Africa.

As the days go by, Mr. Pettigrew continues to demonstrate how a patriotic statesman should not act.

How did it happen that the mayor's grand distribution of verbal bouquets omitted the city controller?

Occasionally the conversion of a Chinaman is reported; but it seldom lasts.

What this country needs is an equalization of its wealth.

THE VICE PRESIDENCY.

In another column is reproduced an article from The Scranton Tribune, suggesting Hon. Charles Emory Smith for the vice presidential nomination. There are Republicans in Pennsylvania who do in any state for that matter, whose nomination for second place on the presidential ticket would be more gratifying to them than the nomination of any such recognition of one of the ablest and purest Republicans in the state would be equally gratifying to every man in the state.

The Republicans who constitute the dominant faction of the party in Pennsylvania, and who will control the state's delegation in the ensuing national convention, will have the deciding whether or not the attempt shall be made to nominate a Pennsylvania man for vice president, and if so whether Charles Emory Smith shall be the man. He stands for all that is best in our country and he has the principles and policies that made the party great and that have kept it in power in the national government almost continuously for forty years. It is never a mistake to nominate for a great office a man whose fame has for its foundation ability, purity and integrity. Men that stand broad, honest and bold hold on the intelligent masses. Charles Emory Smith is a man of that stamp, and it follows that his nomination for vice president would be intensely gratifying to the masses of this state, and of the entire country.

But as we have said, the question whether or not this splendid Pennsylvania Republican shall be urged upon the ensuing Republican national convention for the vice presidential nomination will depend upon the men who will constitute or control the state's delegation. The great Republican commonwealth is entitled to its recognition and will deserve consideration, and doubtless will receive it, if our delegation shall present the name of Charles Emory Smith. Our state has the honor to be represented by the dominant faction of the Republican party, the faction with which Charles Emory Smith has not been and is not now identified. He has given his name to the faction ready and willing to accept Mr. Smith for the vice presidency? If so there will be no difficulty in presenting a united front in making a battle for his nomination.

PERSONALITIES.

Sir Charles Nicholson, sole surviving member of the first Australian parliament, has just entered on his ninety-second year. Mrs. Lydia Bradley, of Peoria, Ill., who gave \$50,000 during the year to philanthropic objects, stands second on the list of women largest givers in the country. The long forgotten names of some of our long forgotten benefactors by the reading public that may will probably be surprised to learn that the author of "The Field" is still alive. He lives in London. All the Hohenzollern princes born since 1222 have slept in a curious old cradle of carved oak. On the four sides is carved the text of the angel's charge over thee, to keep thee in all His ways. John D. Rockefeller advises young men to keep a careful record of all expenditures and receipts, so that at the end of every year they may tell whether they are saving enough to provide against the inevitable rainy day. Though the German emperor employs Berlin tailors, he believes in giving principals employment also. In every industry there is a tailor, who occasionally has the honor of supplying the emperor with a uniform. Lady Sarah Wilson, whose daring

deeds in the South African war, particularly her 200-mile trip across the veldt, have made her the subject of general attention, in the first woman war correspondent bearing a courtesy title. Gideon Hawley, the oldest locomotive engineer on the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern railroad, between Buffalo and Chicago, and probably the oldest engineer in the United States, is soon to be retired on a pension of \$7 per month. Senator Hear himself by compiling old statistics. The other day he said he had found that 55 per cent. of the present congressmen wear frock coats and silk hats to the session, but that a majority of the senators stick to business suits. Ohio's inquisitorial law laws have forced H. M. Hanna, the senator's brother, to make his permanent residence at Thomasville, Ga. He explains that the laws enforce a constant temptation to commit perjury, and he is fleeing from that temptation.

CURRENT VERSE.

Night Wanderers. In the silence of the night, When the earth is hushed and sleeping, And the waked stars are keeping, Solemn watch from out the sky, Go the birds their guide notes calling, Clear and strong their cries come falling, With a wild and rhythmic cadence, As to Southern haunts they fly.

Seeming but as wandering voices, Rounding in the upper regions, Or like strange tongued spirit legions, Gathering to a mystic tryst, Strong, unwavering, faltering never, As if guided by some power, Through the trackless wastes of ether, Through the moonlight and the mist.

Do they see a shining pathway, Firelit cloud or spirit guiding, On before them gliding, Through the perils of the air? This we know not, but believing, That all creatures weak or need, Have the Father's love around them Can we doubt that He is there? —Margaret N. Levick.

I'd like to be the sort of man Who walks with lordly stride And who each creditor may scan With a superior smile, On checks and coupons I had set My hopes, when hopes were new, But plain small change is what I get, And I'm right thankful, too.

I'd like to be a man of fame, With plaudits from the crowd And often stop to hear my name Recited loud and loud, But I am mighty glad to meet Some good friend that I know When walking careless down the street And hear him say, "Hello."

I dream of laurels which I'd wear With the great I sat, I'm lucky if I hide my hair With a new-purchased hat, Life's humbler pleasures are so sweet, The wasting time to fret, Instead of what you get, —Washington Star.

The soft lamp glides my desk tonight; My books stand all a-row, I turn them o'er, and to my sight They seem to sorrow so!

The ancient rhymes of love and death That were such comforters Seem now to know some living breath That all about them stir.

Story and fable, quaint and good, They speak so bitterly! Not as the hand that penned them would That they should speak to me.

A little comment scribbled fine, A finger-print, a bit Of faded paper at some line Tells how we talked of it.

Alike the poet and the sage, Gold-edge and russet-brown— As if guided by some power, Receding loud and loud, A corner folded down!

The glamour of the verse is down; The cut leaves seem to bleed, In the dim light I read alone The books she loved to read, —Post Wheeler in New York Press.

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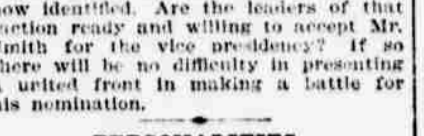
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A lady who read the above testimonial said: "If I knew how to give R-I-P-A-N-S to my dog I should like to make use of the same remedy." On inquiry it was ascertained that by cutting a slit in a piece of meat and inserting a Tabule therein the dog swallowed it readily and had his medicine in him before he knew it.