

The Scranton Tribune

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When space will permit, The Tribune 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.

SCRANTON, JANUARY 30, 1900. REPUBLICAN CITY TICKET. SCHOOL DIRECTORS—C. C. Forber, E. D. Fellows.

Governor Stone and the Department of Agriculture may not be able to prove conclusively that the oleo law is a law, but they can at least furnish a safe guard that will enable the oleomargarine enthusiasts to avoid good butter.

A Fight for Life. ENGLAND'S defeat is serious in South Africa; it means the fall of Ladysmith, the dispersing of the British troops, the further disaffection of the Afrikaners and possibly a loss of England's hold upon the native tribes.

The most serious feature of the collapse of the Buller campaign is its possible encouragement of European intervention with objections to the British cause and perhaps with demands reaching into other theaters of international concern.

Up to this moment diplomatic recognition of the South African republic has been scrupulously withheld by the neutral powers, notwithstanding the considerable pressure from public opinion in France, Germany and Holland for some official show of the popular sympathy.

As the English prestige has lessened under the stress of cumulative defeat, this pressure has enormously increased, and the incident last week of the ostentatious invitation of Dr. Leyds, the Boer agent in Europe, to a banquet given by the German minister of foreign affairs was something that would not have occurred had British arms met with no reverses.

That the seriousness of the crisis is fully recognized by Great Britain is demonstrated by the tone of the London press. The gathering storm of public criticism which a short time ago threatened to break immediately over the present English ministry has disappeared as if by magic under the obvious necessity for a closing of all ranks against the perils abroad.

One paper urges the fitting out of the entire fleet upon a war basis, and it is a conservative journal at that. It is plain that the inhabitants of the mother country are now profoundly stirred, as they have not been during the present generation, out of a seemingly little matter has grown a mountain of trouble, with vast difficulties and dangers impending, but there is something in the way they rise to it and set their faces to see it through, irrespective of the cost. There will be a reckoning later; just now it is a fight for life.

A confusion of names which made "Brandt" read "Bradley" has involved the New York World in a ten thousand dollar libel suit. And yet many correspondents wonder why newspapers should be so particular in the way of insisting upon good penmanship.

The Clayton-Bulwer Treaty. THE POSSIBILITY of complications arising over the Clayton-Bulwer treaty should the United States go ahead, as contemplated in the Hepburn bill, with the construction of the Nicaragua canal, is remote. An understanding on this subject undoubtedly exists between the governments of Great Britain and the United States.

Still, the question is of sufficient academic interest to deserve consideration among the possible consequences, and this, we trust, will excuse us for quoting from the New York Sun an unusually clear history of the treaty and of the interpretations which have been placed upon it.

In 1847 the republic of Nicaragua became involved in trouble with a tribe of Indians, the Moscosos, who dwell upon the Atlantic coast side of the isthmus of Nicaragua. Over these Indians a protectorate was claimed by Great Britain; and after Nicaragua had raised the Nicaraguan flag Great Britain stepped in and forced it to yield to the Indians' terms.

"This act," the Sun adds, "was construed by our government as indicative of an intention to prevent the construction of a canal across the American isthmus with American money and under American protection and control. The relations between Great Britain and the United States soon assumed a threatening aspect, and one of the first administrative measures of President Taylor, after he took office on March 4, 1848, was to send a diplomatic agent to Central America. Soon after this agent's arrival the British took forcible possession of certain islands in the Bay of Fonseca, on the Pacific side of the Nicaraguan isthmus, ostensibly to force claims for the indemnification of British subjects against the states of Honduras and Salvador, but in reality, as Americans believed, to compel this country to enter into an agreement for a joint construction and operation of the proposed canal.

At all events, it was evident that delay might augment the misunderstanding and precipitate a conflict. Accordingly, Mr. Clayton, the secretary of state, and Mr. Henry Bulwer, representing Great Britain, framed the treaty of April 19, 1850, the first article of which provides that neither government will ever obtain or maintain for itself any exclusive control over the ship canal which may be constructed between the Atlantic and the Pacific oceans by the way of the River San Juan de Nicaragua, or either or both of the lakes of Nicaragua or Managua, to any port or place on the Pacific ocean; or erect or maintain any fortifications, or occupy or fortify, or colonize, or assume, or exercise any dominion over Nicaragua, Costa Rica, the Mosquito coast, or any part of Central America; or make use of any protection which either power may afford, or any alliance which either power has, or may have to or with any state or people, for any of the above purposes.

"After the treaty was signed Sir Henry Bulwer filed in the state department a memorandum to the effect that nothing in the treaty should be held to abrogate the right of British subjects to maintain their woodcutting 'settlement' in the coast district known as the Belize, and Mr. Clayton stated that such was his understanding. Our government is in nowise bound by Mr. Clayton's statement. But, even if it were, the 'settlement' of which Sir Henry Bulwer spoke, which merely gave to British subjects the right of denizenship and woodcutting under the sovereignty of the republic of Honduras, was, after the beginning of our Civil War, transferred by Great Britain into a crown colony, which, of course, involved the assumption of British sovereignty."

It was contended by Secretary Frelinghuysen that this violation of the spirit of the original convention left the United States free to consider the compact broken; and the same view was upheld by the first Cleveland administration.

This is a loop-hole of escape in case we need a loop-hole. But the better plan is to have a fair and square understanding. This doubtless already exists.

Base ball enthusiasts are already at work arranging games for the season of 1900. An Atlantic League to include Scranton and Wilkes-Barre, has been organized on paper, and in fact all concerned are hopeful save the men who are expected to furnish the cash.

The Anti-Saloon League. ANNOUNCEMENT was made in yesterday's Sun of a new attack which is being organized in New York City against saloons and the saloon influence. The Anti-Saloon league has come into the metropolis and from the pulpit of twenty-five churches on Sunday sermons were delivered bearing upon this subject. The Anti-Saloon league is an institution which had its birth seven years ago in Oberlin, O., and is now strongly entrenched in thirty-three states in the Union. Its work is to combat intemperance not only in an educational way but also practically, by forcing the enforcement of the liquor laws, by insisting upon the nomination of honest men for office, by drafting and strongly supporting new legislation intended the better to safeguard the public welfare and by such other forms of activity as may in different localities seem to be called for.

According to its national superintendent, Rev. Dr. Russell, of Columbus, O., the league is not in any way connected with the partisan prohibition movement, but is simply a vehicle of enforcing the best legislation regarding the liquor traffic that public sentiment will approve. It tries to do for temperance reform the practical work that a political machine does in politics, with the difference that it asks for no spoils in compensation. The idea is apparently sound, and it will be interesting to observe how far it can be successfully applied to a wide-open community like New York. A problem which we dare say the league has thought of and provided for would arise if many saloons in our large cities should be suddenly closed, leaving their habitual patrons to find shelter, entertainment and amusement elsewhere.

As nearly every newspaper in Susquehanna county has denied being in the syndicate, the much-talked-of journalistic combine up that way begins to assume the aspects of a pipe dream.

As to Puerto Rico. IT IS ANNOUNCED upon authority and apparently confirmed by actions that the administration has undergone within the past few days a change of base in regard to the policy to be pursued toward Puerto Rico. The president in his message strongly advocated extension of the federal revenue laws to that island, thereby aiming to assure perpetual freedom between the island and the mainland. This policy was later indorsed by the cabinet and formulated in a bill introduced by Representative Payne, the floor leader of the house of representatives.

But now the position is assumed by those representing the administration that it would be wiser not to pass legislation involving an apparent recognition of Puerto Rico's constitutional equality with other territory of the United States—a law point in process of judicial determination—and we are told that the administration will instead press for a merely nominal tariff on articles imported into the United States from Puerto Rico. This, it is asserted, will afford necessary relief to Puerto Rican producers without committing the administration prematurely to a territorial form of government implying statehood as a goal.

In a matter of this nature the administration, with its complete fund of information, is better qualified than the ordinary citizen to reach a wise judgment. Confidence, therefore, should not be withdrawn from it. At the same time, the belief is widespread that Puerto Rico is fairly entitled to all the rights and privileges of a territory in the familiar significance of that term; and that, while it is best to be cautious it is also well to be just.

There seems to be nothing small about Mr. Littlefield. It matters naught to you and me if this, the new-born year, begins or ends a century; Our duty still is clear. Each in the span of his own life— Amid the storm and bustle— Must with his burden in the strife; So get to work and hustle. —Washington Star.

Outline Studies of Human Nature

The Little Boy's Ambition. Bobby lives on North Delaware street, says the Indianapolis Press. He is the youngest of a family of eight. The other day his mother interrupted him in one of his customary mad rushes from the garage to the cellar—a new game she had and had him by the coat while she sat, gently: "Bobby, dear, your birthday comes next Tuesday—do you know it?"

Much to her surprise, the subject, usually a topic of breathless interest, didn't appear to arouse Bobby to enthusiasm. On the contrary, he seemed anxious to get away and continue his game. However, he condescended to reply, "Yes, I knowed it."

"I haven't heard you say anything about the sort of a present you would like," said his mamma. "Surely, Bobby, there's something that you would like pretty well, is there not?"

Bobby answered, with a suggestion of sarcasm in his voice: "Yeth, but I won't get it."

His mamma was touched. "Why, Bobby, what do you do not know that you won't get it? Don't you usually get everything you want?"

"Not always," returned the youngest of the eight, and his tone smacked of the cruelty and heartlessness of the world. His mamma was puzzled. Bobby had a bicycle, a red wagon, an airgun, a fire engine, and a number of other toys. He was a Chinese kite, and always got wanting Chinese kites—and always getting them. She could think of nothing else.

"Bobby," she said tenderly, "tell mamma what it is."

Bobby dug the toe of his shoe into the Turkish rug in some embarrassment. "Tell mamma, Bobby," repeated his mother, "what is it?"

"Will you let me go then?" "Yes, Bobby."

"Honest?" "Yes."

"Well, then," murmured into Bobby, "I want to have a breakfast all to myself."

Harrison's Maiden Speech. The recent maiden effort of the junior senator from Indiana, Mr. Beveridge, has, says the Washington Post, revived a story at the capital of the first speech that the general delivered before the upper house, Jan. 21, 1852, when he was himself a junior senator from the Hoosier state.

The then future president had entered the chamber of the United States in the usual extraordinary session was called, following the inauguration of a chief magistrate. Between that time and the following December, 1851, Amos E. Burnside, a native of Indiana, but a senator at that time from the state of Rhode Island, had died. General Harrison was succeeded by General Fremont.

General Harrison had written it, and has been pronounced one of the choicest and sweetest bits of tribute literature ever heard in the United States senate.

The Creature and the Creator. A pompous member of Parliament visiting an agricultural show in Dublin arrived late, and found himself on the outskirts of a huge crowd, says the Scottish-American. Being unable to obtain a good view for himself and a lady friend who accompanied him, and presuming that he was well known to the spectators, he took the liberty of coming out on the shoulder and peremptorily demanded, "Make way there."

"Garn, who are ye pushing?" the unexpected response answered. "Do you know who I am, sir?" cried the indignant M. P.

"I am the representative of the people." "Yah!" growled the porter, as he stood unmoved, "but we're the blooming people themselves."

The Editor's Mistake. Editors have their troubles. One of the men who presides over the printing of a western newspaper is mourning the loss of two subscribers. No. 1 wrote asking how to raise his twins safely, while the other wanted to know how he might rid his orchard of grasshoppers. The answers went forward by mail, but by accident the editor put them into the wrong envelopes, so that the man with the twins received the answer: "Cover them carefully with straw and set fire to it, and then the little pests will jump into the flames. For a few minutes, will be speedily settled."

And the man with the grasshoppers was told to "give castor oil and rub their gums with a bone." Columbian.

Awkward Juvenile Cander. When James Everett Butler, a grandson of Governor Mount, is in the governor's office, the attaches of the office walk straight, says the Indianapolis Press. A day or two ago, while the governor was almost buried under a mass of state papers in his private office, a man walked into the office and asked if the governor were there.

"He is not in just at present," said Private Secretary Wilson, in his most suave manner.

"Is he, he?" said James Everett Butler, "He's right in that room there," and Mr. Wilson nearly collapsed as the stranger walked into the private office.

Straw Did Not Go with Bread. One autumn Sunday, says the Scottish-American, a Highland divine preached from the text, "Cast thy bread upon the waters, and after many days it shall return and give thee a plentiful increase." There was a heavy rainfall, a large portion of the minister's corn on the glebe lands being swept away. Meeting a neighbor, the minister said: "I suppose, Tamias, you were able to take 'ony' of my sheaves out o' the water?"

"No," replied Tamias, "an' I dinna ken if I would, even though I could."

"Why?" "Well, ye told us on Sunday to 'cast our bread upon the waters.'"

"I did that," replied the minister, "but no' straw an' a'."

NUBS OF KNOWLEDGE. The rocking chair "injures the nerves." Yellowstone Park geysers are slowly playing out. For every million inhabitants in Russia, there are only ten newspapers.

One of India's sacred fires that still burns was consecrated 1,200 years ago. The entertainment of royalty costs English society each year fully \$100,000,000. Great Britain's postal service cost \$200,000,000 a year.

At Japan's Atlantic City (Kiao) everybody goes naked. Russia is a country extremely rich in horses. The number of which has been estimated at 20,000,000, of which at least one million are saddle horses fit for the purposes of war.

In Woman's Realm

THE NEW book which seems to be attracting most attention just now among the readers of fiction is "Red Powder," by Mary Chisholm (which you will remember to pronounce "Chumley"), published by Harper's on this side. While it is admirably written and well adapted for showing up the special kind of a London fool who enters into an intrigue with a married woman, it is rather painful in its denouement, and leaves a bad taste in your mouth. This, the author makes a feeble attempt to remove by an epilogue sort of dose in the shape of an epilogue, which shows you a hint of what may happen of the double heroine should in later years come home with a cowboy kind of lover in Australia. This has the effect of giving you a hint of what may happen of the double heroine should in later years come home with a cowboy kind of lover in Australia.

The book serves one purpose that of making the reader's intention clear to show up a particularly obnoxious brand of peaking.

What makes this book especially interesting to the library is that delightful one of "T. Hopkinson Smith," "The Other Stories," which contains a number of stories read by him last winter. Among these are "A Kentucky Cinderella," "A Water-logged Town" and "Five Meats for a Dullard." In one entitled "The Tramp of Bob's," the author remembers that Scranton is on the map by alluding to it in connection with the old violin man's pathetic peregrinations.

Another book lately received at the library is also one of short stories, which seems to be the popular way of going on these days. The one of the day is "The Queen's Twin," by Sarah Orne Jewett. It is delightful and a breezy, out of door fascination indescribable in its hold on the reader.

A new work which will be seized with enthusiasm by the art lover is "Great Pictures Described by Great Writers," edited and translated by Esther Simons, author of "Turrets Towers and Temples." It is a sumptuous volume containing exquisite reproductions of the masterpieces of painting and description written by some of the most famous authors of modern times, including Dumas, Ruskin, Austin, Dobson, Fromentin, Gautier, Constable and many others. The noted piece of word painting by Walter Pater relating to the Mona Lisa in the list.

That makes this book especially interesting to Scranton readers is because the cover is designed by Miss Morse, superintendent of drawing of the public schools. It is issued by Dodd, Mead & Co.

PERSONALITIES. Ex-Senator Sawyer, of Wisconsin, has given \$500 for the building of a home for friendless persons in Oshkosh.

Queen Victoria loathes cats, and no one else her immense household is permitted to have a cat. She has an unquenchable fear of them.

Henri Rochefort, editor of the Paris "L'Intransigent," has fought 20 duels, and has challenges for a dozen more outstanding.

Pierre Loti had his famous house-burn, now at Jacksonville, Fla., overhauled and refitted at an expense of \$70,000.

Professor John J. Flather, of the Wisconsin State university, believes that the world will be ruled by the machine. In any event, it will be useful for power.

A bullet fired at King George of Greece by a murderer imbedded itself in the framework of his carriage. He had it extracted and mounted as a watch charm, and thinks it is a talisman for his safety.

One of the most prominent lawyers of Oklahoma City is Laura Lykins, a half-blood Shawnee woman, who was graduated from the legal department of the Carleton Indian school in 1898.

Sir William Turner, who has just been elected president of the British association for 1900, is one of the best-known anatomists in the world. He is 67 years of age and a native of Lancaster. When he was only 22 years of age he was made demonstrator of anatomy at the University of Edinburgh.

Thomas B. Reed, in writing of the modern trust, does not seem to regard it either as an "octopus" or a bugaboo. "My notion," says he, "is that while Progress and the higher laws which really govern the universe are, in men's talk, much inferior to the revised statutes before they are enacted, they are always superior to quite superior to them after they are enacted. In fact, nature abhors a monopoly as much as it does a vacuum."

Mr. Reed's paper on "Monopolies" which is to appear in the Saturday Evening Post of February 10, is a suggestive discussion of the methods of vast corporations. It discusses in a striking and original manner some of the most pressing questions of the day.

The last of the "body" articles in the February Century is the one that will doubtless attract the most attention. This is the first instalment of hitherto unpublished extracts from the private diary of Dr. R. E. O'Malley, a journal of Bonaparte's physician at St. Helena. The original manuscript of this journal, in eighteen little volumes, has come into the possession of the Century company, and is found to afford a surprising amount of new material in the way of conversations with the exiled emperor. These talks with Napoleon will form an important feature of the Century during the year 1900.

A special feature has been made of late in the monthly magazine number of The Outlook, of single pages devoted each to a portrait and sketch of some man prominently in the eye of the world at the time of publication. The February magazine number has portraits and sketches of this kind, of Secretary John Hay, whose management of international affairs is just now receiving such wide spread applause, and of Mr. E. L. Godkin, who has just resigned from the editorship of the "Nation" and of the "Evening Post" in New York City. The Outlook company, New York.

Everybody's Magazine is the name of a publication now being published in favor of the recent field. It makes a feature of the top short stories—the kind that grip hold of one—and of simple, exacting, and convincing. It is a body understands. For instance, in the February number we are told in a remarkably clear and graphic manner just how electricity is generated, and how it runs the trolley car. For a purely scientific subject it has been treated with astonishing simplicity and brevity, and no one can read the article without interest and profit.

Reverberator's Magazine for February has the front cover of the artist of Donald G. Mitchell, recently drawn from life by A. I. Keller. This is printed in tints, and is a striking likeness of the venerable editor. The magazine is a body understands. It is accompanied with an article on "The Master of Edgewood," by Arthur Reed Kimball, who writes on that gracious and respectful side of Mr. Mitchell's long literary career which is associated with his farm and his friends.

An event of all music lovers will be the publication of the last musical composition of Johann Strauss in the March Woman's Home Companion, which magazine has secured the exclusive right to publish this musical masterpiece. It is entitled "Dream Vision," and arranged for the piano, being a grade of composition within the execution of the average musician.

The publishers of McClure's Magazine say that nothing else they have ever brought out has attracted such wide attention and such hearty commendation as "The Life of the Master," by Dr. John Robert "Jan Macdaren." A second installment will appear in the February number with five illustrations in color and many in black and white, all from original paintings and drawings by C. K. Linson.

LITERARY NOTES.

Albee's Magazine for February is notable for an extraordinary variety of contents. Perhaps the most valuable contribution is the character sketch of Cecil Rhodes, by Allen Sangre. Harry Thurston Peck, in his article on "The Decade's Immortal Books," contends that this is the most sterile decade of the century, holding that only two writers of the period will live: the United States of the World," by George Leisak Hunter, is a paper of great significance at this stage of the world's politics. The cruise of the "Wilmette" in the Pacific is vividly described by E. H. Coleman, while G. H. Payne tells of Howard Gould's transatlantic cruise in the Niagara. The wreck of the "Saba" in the Gulf of Mexico has been vividly described by Gustav Kobbe's dramatic picture of this ocean graveyard. "The Autobiography of a Niagara Indian" is by Theodore Watters, is quite out of the usual magazine style. For stories "The Vindication of Henderson of Greece," by Brand Whitlock, is the best work this forceful writer has yet done. There is also a story by Onie Reed, Edith Robinson, Howard Fielding and General King.

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ROY. Papa, what are Rye-Jan Tabules? MAN. My son, what does A. N. N. spell? ROY. Ann. MAN. What does A. N. spell? ROY. That spells Ann too. MAN. Then Ann might spell Anns, might it not? ROY. Sure! MAN. What does R. I. P. spell? ROY. Rip! Of course. MAN. Then R. I. P. A. N. S. spells Ripans with the accent on the R? not rye-pans. ROY. But what does it mean? MAN. Do you know the word C. A. B. A. L.? ROY. Yes, my teacher told me about it yesterday. In the time of Charles I. the first King's Council consisted of five men whose names were Clifford, Arlington, Buckingham, Ashley and Lauderdale and people called them the Cabal, making the word from the initials of their name.

MAN. Well, R. I. P. A. N. S. is a word created in a similar way. It is composed of the initials letters of six substances much used in medicine, Khubarb, Ipecac, Peppermint, Aloes, Nuxvomica and Soda, and your mother says that for profound depression and exhaustion and for that di- away sensation a Ripans Tabule is a specific. Ripans Tabules are a remedy for stomach troubles and stomach troubles are the basis of nearly all sickness. One gives relief.

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