

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 shall be subject to editorial revision.

TEN PAGES.

SCRANTON, FEBRUARY 16, 1900.

REPUBLICAN CITY TICKET.

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

Macrum says his official acts at Pretoria were irrevocable. The trouble, as we understand it, was with the acts that he didn't do.

Now for the Viaduct.

CAREFUL STUDY of the viaduct proposition is calculated to remove opposition among those who have regarded the raising of the whole street as the proper method of construction. This, it must be borne in mind, would cost an immense amount of money, perhaps half a million dollars, whereas the plan embodied in the pending proposition provides for every convenience that could be secured under the other method, at a cost not to exceed \$167,000.

On the subject of the need of a safe passage way for pedestrians and vehicles over the network of railway tracks at the foot of the West Lackawanna avenue bill it is hardly necessary to present arguments. This need is everywhere understood. A kind Providence has watched over the welfare of the thousands who daily cross these tracks so that the actual percentage of deaths and disabilities has hitherto been small; but the peril is enormous and continually increasing.

Not only that, but the interruptions to traffic are both annoying and costly and these, also, are increasing. The necessity for public protection from these perils and interruptions is a matter that concerns not only the few people living on the West Side, but also every other resident of Scranton and all who use the tracks. The elimination of this nuisance has become an imperative necessity.

The statement of the viaduct building committee, presented in yesterday's Tribune, is true and timely in every particular. This is not a sectional enterprise, but a matter vital to the whole city. Let us dispose of the subject by voting to construct the viaduct.

In Kentucky.

THE STATEMENT of Governor Taylor, of Kentucky, which is printed in full on another page, brings together in a concise manner the salient facts of a situation which even yet borders on anarchy and which at one time seemed to threaten revolution. It clears up for those at a distance many things not previously understood by them.

That Judge Taylor was fairly elected governor of Kentucky last fall in spite of the operations of a partisan election law passed for the express purpose of preventing Republican success is not denied by anybody. That he was inaugurated governor upon the face of the returns which had been approved by a state board of election commissioners made up wholly of Democrats is a matter of history. That the complexion of the legislature had been changed by fraud in the count so as to give a sufficient Goebel majority on joint ballot to force the unseating of Taylor in case the state board failed to extinguish his plurality is believed by all the Republicans and many Democrats in Kentucky. Up to the time that Governor Taylor declared the legislature of Frankfort adjourned and by proclamation ordered it to convene in the town of London, he had the unanimous sympathy of decent people throughout the country. The justice of his cause was universally recognized.

Regulating the Lake Levels.

ALTHOUGH it has been declared by the leaders at Washington to have a general river and harbor bill this year, enough legislation treating of navigation is under consideration to keep the committee of congress in charge of this subject as busy as ever. For example, on Wednesday the entire time of the house committee was occupied with a discussion between two eminent engineers as to the feasibility of constructing a dam across Niagara river sufficient to raise the level of Lake Erie three feet, and to regulate the contents of that capricious lake so that their depth will be approximately the same year around.

College Joke.

JOHN BARRETT, the ex-minister to Siam, is a graduate of Dartmouth College. Thereby, says the Washington Post, having a medical profession died yesterday in the senate marble room. Barrett was invited to a Dartmouth dinner, and was, of course, called upon for a speech. As everybody knows, he has a rather exaggerated idea of his own importance. So he began, in stilted fashion, to relate the prominent part he took in the Orient during and after the war with Spain.

nor Taylor for having declined to betray the will of the majority in a doubtful compromise with the usurpers. A compromise could only have been tolerated if necessary to preserve the peace; at best it would have been temporary. This brings the case up to Judge Taft's decision that the Federal equity court has no jurisdiction to prevent removal from state office. Office, the court held, is not property. Office can be abolished by constitutional amendment; property cannot. The immediate practical effect of this refusal of the United States circuit court to interfere throws the case into the Kentucky state courts, which are avowedly partisan, and insures the early ousting of the Republican officials, from Taylor down. But to get the Democratic claimants installed by a process of partisan prostitution extending all the way up from fraudulent primaries to prejudiced and perjured courts will be, in the end, an expensive victory for the Democratic party. The manhood of Kentucky will not stand for it.

The wind-up of the affairs of the order of Tontill indicates that the members will get about forty per cent. of their claims. This is indeed a surprise to many, and the members are more than fortunate. When the day of settlement arrives for a get-rich-quick society or in fact any other scheme that is supposed to give something for nothing, the members usually have little to show for their money aside from certificates of stock or receipts for cash paid in.

The Secret of Carnegie's Success

VERY GENERAL surprise is created by the figures of profits of the Carnegie Steel company made public in course of Henry C. Frick's law suit against Andrew Carnegie. The fact that in last year's way of low prices in the steel trade, when many rail and structural mills did not get back a new dollar for an old, the Carnegie company cleaned up \$21,000,000 over and above every expense would sound incredible if stated by an outsider; but when affirmed in a legal paper by one who has had the best of chances to know, it must be accepted as a revelation in the possibilities of efficient management.

Location has done much for the Carnegie concern. It is near the great coke district, it has limestone close at hand, it is the radiating center of many important railroad systems, it has the benefit of river transportation west and south, it is not far removed from the great lakes and it is a natural center of distribution in the rail, structural and billet steel industry. These advantages of location are not unimportant. They would give to Pittsburgh steel production a lead which competition could not take away and, in dull times, spell the difference between profit and loss. But they are not alone enough to account for a \$21,000,000 profit in a year when the majority of steel mills considered it a lucky outcome if expense and income balanced.

Had the Dead Wood on Her.

"WILL," she exclaimed, "I will not live with you another day." "You'll leave me, will you?" he calmly asked. "Yes, I will." "When?" "Now—right off—this minute." "Go on, go on!" "I wouldn't if I were you." "But I will, and I defy you to prevent me. I have suffered at your hands as long as I can put up with it." "Oh, I shouldn't try to stop you," he quietly replied. "I'll simply report to the police that my wife has mysteriously disappeared. They'll want your description, and I will give it. You wear No. 7 shoes; you have an extra large mouth; you walk stiff in your knees; your nose turns up at the end; your eyes rather on the squint; voice like a—"

Moody on the Higher Criticism.

DURING THE discussion of the Briggs heresy case some years ago I sought an interview with Mr. Moody on "higher criticism," writes W. E. Curtis in the Chicago Record. "I'm not up to that sort of thing," he said, with a wink in his eye. "You see I never studied theology, and I'm precious glad I didn't. There are so many things in the Bible that everybody can understand that I'm going to preach about them until they are exhausted, and then, if I have any time left, I'll take up the texts I don't understand."

Had His Share.

RECENTLY a medical man told this tale at a professional banquet. "Not long since," said the doctor, "a member of the medical profession died and in due time approached the gates of the Beautiful Land. He was, of course, escorted by St. Peter. "What is your name?" asked the aged doorkeeper. "Sam Jones," was the reply. "What was your business while on earth?" "I was a doctor." "Oh, a physician, eh?" "Yes, sir." "Send out your own bills, I suppose?" "Yes, sir." "Collected 'em yourself?" "Why—yes, sir," stammered the wretched shade of the physician. "And then St. Peter threw wide the portals and said: 'Go right in, my friend; if you've done that you've had punishment enough.'"—Colorado Springs Facts.

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in charge of harbor improvements at Buffalo, dissented from most of Mr. Wisner's opinions. He claimed that the raising of the lakes would be a matter concerning which Canada should have a say; that the danger from floods during the beating of a high wind upon the Canadian shore would be increased, inasmuch as Lake Erie already lifts itself eight feet higher than ordinary under wind pressure; and that many acres of improved land lying close to shore would go under if the dam should be built, opening a big door to damages.

The Crucial Moment.

"WOULD YOU mind telling me how you became a successful man?" asked the visitor. "Why, I couldn't talk about that now," answered the man with a worried look. "But you have made a fortune and engineered great enterprises and secured the confidence and applause of your people?" "Oh, yes. But that's all in my regular work. Haven't you heard about what we're doing now?" "Why, I can't say that I have." "We're going to give a party. It'll be one of the biggest ever, and you'll have to wait till my wife sees how I behave before she'll see who I'm a success or not."—Washington Star.

Danger in the Church.

NOT LONG since the bishop of London was a guest at a dinner party in Birmingham, says the Golden Penny, when a lady inquired for her witty remarks, who was a guest, said: "Do you know that there are times when it is dangerous to enter a church?" "And what is the occasion?" inquired the bishop with great dignity, straightening himself in his chair. "That there are times when it is positively dangerous to enter a church," was the lady's reply. "That cannot be, madam," said the bishop, "pray explain."

The Woes of Hayti.

THE AID—Your excellency, there is another cruiser in the office. The president of Hayti—Heavens and earth! Another one of those infernal foreign collectors? The aid—I can't make out his flag, your excellency. The president—Oh, it don't make any difference. They all take turns in coming. Tell him to call again the first of the month. The aid—But they always laugh when I say that, and tell me they'll blow the cover off the whole island if you don't settle instantly. The president—I suppose I'll have to, but we'll all have to go through the international bankruptcy court and commence over again—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Outline Studies of Human Nature

A Kentucky Comedy of Errors.

THERE IS a story of a young lady who was much admired and courted by a young man, who one day kissed her against her will. It made her furious, and she indignantly exclaimed: "If you dare kiss me again, I'll tell my father!" She meant it, but he took it for the usual feminine bluff of such occasions and repeated the deed on the spot. She ran out of the room to the back porch, where her father had just finished oiling his gun. "I will," said the father, who is an enthusiastic sportsman, and he made off for the woods. When her father entered the parlor that young man didn't even wait to say good-by; nor was he particular about his manner or his dress. He broke through the window and struck a speed he thought would distance the gun as well as the old man. It was with difficulty the father cornered him a few days later, and explained; then it was a month later before the girl could persuade him she had not intended to do anything of the kind, and, maddened now, and goes to see her, and, madly, repeats the microbes doses, but she don't "tell papa" any more.—Polk County News.

NUBS OF KNOWLEDGE.

The Bible is being translated into the Philippine dialects. Missouri has suffered \$1,000,000 loss by tornadoes and hail. In 1898 the United States did 5.4 per cent. of the world's commerce. In 1900 it did 9.5. In the battles of the Franco-German war the proportion of killed to wounded was 1 to 4.5. Temperance advocates will be pleased to learn that one man in six of the British navy is a teetotaler. Of 7,100 men who entered one of the state prisons in Germany they would be found that they were drunkards. A St. Louis woman was asked how she managed her husband. "Feed him well and trust to luck," was the answer. If our Southern states alone were as densely settled as Germany they would have a population of over 100,000,000.

Office Furniture

China's new railroad from Canton to Hankow, which, with its branches, will be 1,000 miles long, is to be built entirely by American capital. About 50 per cent more business is being done in the United States, as measured by that reliable test the volume of mailings, than was done in 1892. On the express trains running between Vienna and Constantinople the use of a sleeping berth costs 60 cents first class and 40 cents second class for every 12 hours. It is estimated that the various theaters and opera houses in Germany receive subscribers to the amount of about \$50,000 a year. Oats, barley and rye originated in the wild forms along the Mediterranean. The first noted species of wheat were brought from Persia.

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In Woman's Realm

"HAVE EITHER of you a book," was the anxious inquiry given out by Superintendent Howell's authority to the eager pupils of a grammar school yesterday, the same with purposes of correction. They eyed it doubtfully. Some way it looked all right but one hand went up and one face bore a surly smile. "What is it, John?" asked the teacher. "Have either of ye a book?" replied John, triumphantly, while most of the other children regarded him with envy. But the teacher shook her head and then another hand, waved in the air and an excited voice shouted, "Now, of course, that won't do. It should be 'have either of youse a book?'" And then the teacher's face bore an expression of gloom. The pathetic story of the possibilities of the English language in Scranton.

JUST WHY the street car conductors should have such a prejudice against opening a ventilator is incomprehensible to the average mind.

After the air has been rightly excluded all the way from Taylor to Throop and from Peckville to Scranton, and from Pittston and back a half day or more, the inside atmosphere is apt to become well a trifle weary, to say the least. One woman who rides frequently is evidently regarded with disfavor by the conductors. One of them, a nice polite one, who doesn't project you down the aisle at double quick time with his hand confidently placed on her back and doesn't tread on her frock while stretching to a strap, was heard to remark yesterday, to a recruit just who was clamoring on the step: "O Jimmie! There she comes! Ye may as well go in there and job open a ventilator. Ye can shut 'em again when we get down town."

MRS. GEORGE is a dear little old lady, the oldest in the Home for the Friendless, and she had a birthday on Wednesday. It was her eighty-fifth and it was appropriately celebrated. Mrs. Walker gave a birthday dinner for her. There was a splendid big birthday cake from a kind friend and, of course, valentines galore. The pathetic story of this old English lady's life is one to stir the heart, and her patient, beautiful way of living that life has brought to her scores of friends who wish her birthdays may be many.

THE NEW course connected with the different schools of Music is attracting much attention. It contemplates the instruction of people who, while not having great skill in music, can learn to thoroughly understand the great composers and thus add many folds to their enjoyment. The course will be opened as soon as a sufficient number of applications are received.

THE AWFUL prediction by Mrs. Carnegie's Chairman that the new president of the National Suffragists, that before the end of the twentieth century there will be a woman president of the United States, is an outlook which will cause the average man of the period to feel resigned at the impossibility of being alive to see the day.

THE Second Presbyterian supper is tonight, and no mistake. It is to be the finest one of the year and the ladies of that church know how to serve a supper.

LIFE AND DEATH.

To live for the good of others. To grope in life's dismal halls. To help our sisters and brothers. To comfort the one that falls. To travel the broad and natural path. To gratefully forgive. To live for all of the human race— Thus it is to live.

To die in the twilight of happy thoughts. To die as the autumn dies. To fade from the glitter of human life. As the sunlight fades in the skies; To know that the world is better. To have uttered the human cry. And to know in the night that the cry was heard— Thus it is to die. —Percy Fitzhugh, in Brooklyn Eagle.

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We have now a full line of all makes of Watches that we guarantee to pass. Buy your Watches of an old reliable house. Not some agent who will open shop for two or three months and then skip out. We are here to stay. Our guarantee is "as good as gold." Prices as low as any.

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A fireman who lives in a Pennsylvania town suffered from a sore mouth and tongue for a year. Doctors told him it came from his stomach and would not get well. He concluded to try Ripans Tabules, and says: "I am happy to say the first box cured my mouth and tongue, and I don't know how to praise them enough." Lewis, Reilly & Davies, 116-118 Wyoming Avenue.