

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 the merits of a bill, but the rule is that these must be signed, for publication, by the writer's real name.

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The Associated Press report of Monday's and Tuesday's battle at Paardberg drift, given to the public in yesterday afternoon's papers, and because of its dramatic interest, reproduced elsewhere, is one of those rare chronicles of the times that mark turning points in the world's history.

The Quay Case Taken Up.

WHATEVER MAY BE the result of the final vote in the senate upon the question of admitting M. S. Quay on gubernatorial appointment—a speculation chiefly confined to the bargain counter newspapers, which hitherto have foolishly imagined that their artificial noise was going to decide the question—

the majority of the senate on the Quay case as a matter of the highest privilege is a fortunate indication. It shows that the United States senate owns itself and is not ready to hire out to any factional split conspiracy for the purpose of furthering mendacious minority intrigue.

The question is properly one of supreme privilege. Either the commonwealth of Pennsylvania has a constitutional right to its full representation and vote in the deliberations of the senate, or it has not. If it has such a right every minute of unnecessary delay in according due recognition thereto is an outrage, not only upon the people of Pennsylvania and the constitution of the United States.

Lord Kitchener has the military idea. Keeping everlastingly at it until the enemy surrenders unconditionally is the true secret of great generalship.

The Courts and the Press.

BY-LAW of the Associated Press stipulates that no member shall purchase news from any person, firm or corporation declared by the board of directors or stockholders to be antagonistic to the Associated Press.

The case of the Chicago Inter-Ocean against the Associated Press arose out of the fact that the directors of the latter threatened to drop the Inter-Ocean if it continued to buy news from the New York Sun.

When a corporation is created, there goes with it the power to elect by-laws for its government and guidance, as well as for the guidance and government of its members.

form to its policy. This duty on the part of corporations to do no acts hostile to the policy of the state grows out of the fact that the legislature is presumed to have had in view the public interest when a charter was granted to the corporation and no departure from its charter purposes will be allowed which would be harmful to the public.

The Associated Press was meant to be an association for the mutual benefit of its stockholders and members and not an instrument of warfare against journals or news agencies considered by the board of directors to be "antagonistic."

Advice from the Chinese Minister.

VERY WORTHILY did the orator of the day at the opening of the University of Pennsylvania's new law school, Mr. Wu Ting Fang, the Chinese minister to this country, acquit himself in his discussion of the theme: "The Proper Relations of the United States to the Orient."

The speaker dextrously praised George Washington, both for what he did and for what he did not do, asking where another instance could be found of entire subordination of personal ambition to the public welfare.

Constant intercourse between the East and the West of necessity, he continued, requires a common medium of communication. The story of Babel has a moral to it. It was the confusion of tongues that scattered the people of the earth toward the four winds.

Coming directly to our responsibilities, he said: "The policy of a wise statesman would be not to enact laws for the newly acquired possessions without thoroughly studying the local requirements and peculiar circumstances, or to extend the laws of the mother country which might be unsuited to the conditions of the new territories."

"This republic is young, and this is the first time she has acquired colonies 10,000 miles away. The experience is novel to her. Theories, however excellent, are not safe guides, especially in matters of legislation and government with respect to an alien race, and if errors should be committed the consequences might be very serious."

There are few American statesmen who could have spoken in better vein or more to the point.

Failure to Convict.

RUSSELL HEADLEY, ex-district attorney of Orange county, New York, takes issue with General M. C. Curtis, the leader of the movement to abolish capital punishment, whose views were recently noticed on this page.

failure to convict instead of to the death penalty yet existing in many states. He says: "In 1888, 2,158 murders were committed in the United States, for which only 231 persons were punished; in 1889, there were 3,267 murders, and 274 convictions; in 1890, 4,290, with 228 convictions; in 1891, 6,000 murders, and 290 convictions; and in 1892, the number of homicides had swollen up to 8,000, with the same disproportion in regard to the convictions, and so on steadily increasing up to the present day.

Mr. Headley attributes this failure to convict more to defective preparation of cases by the commonwealth, owing to inadequate detective service, than to prejudice in the jury box against sending murderers to the gallows; and he argues that "it is of the greatest importance that the highest grade of intelligence and the best trained detective ability should be utilized by the state."

There will be no disposition to dispute this latter conclusion; but regarding the cause for so many failures to convict in cases of homicide our observation does not agree with that of Mr. Headley. It certainly is a fact of general knowledge, so far as North-eastern Pennsylvania is concerned, that jurors will vote to put a murderer in prison when they will not vote to hang him; and that acquittal or disagreement in capital cases is very frequently due to this inherent reluctance rather than to doubt of guilt.

Herr Most, the anarchist, has taken to the stage. If Most had adopted the profession years ago much of his wasted energy might have been made profitable.

Civil Service Reform.

AN AMENDMENT to the civil service law has been proposed by Representative Lacey, of Iowa, which has the merit of striking a happy medium between those who want office holders elevated into a separate caste and those who want no civil service regulations at all.

Mr. Lacey's bill provides that "all persons now or hereafter employed in the classified civil service, unless removed for cause or as provided by law, shall serve for a term of five years only from the dates of their several appointments, subject to all the rights of removal, transfer or reduction as provided by law. They are to be eligible for reappointment without further certification from the civil service commission, but upon such reappointment shall be subject to such examination as may be provided by the head of the department, bureau or office in which such person is employed; such reappointment shall be a practical one and shall be made with reference to the qualifications and fitness of such persons for the service in which they are to be employed."

Another encounter has just taken place between the "sober" and "fresh" elements at Cornell, and arrests will probably follow. If the festive students would confine their efforts to braving each other's heads it is probable that little notice would be taken of the sport, but the accompanying destruction of furniture and window glass generally makes it necessary that some one should be called upon to settle.

TOLD BY THE STARS.

Daily Horoscope Drawn by Ajaacbus, The Tribune Astrologer. Astrologer cast: 3:21 a. m., for Saturday, Feb. 24, 1900.

A child born on this day will notice that success in life often depends more upon a "pull" than push.

A chronic kicker is seldom successful in anything save the destruction of his own footwear.

Hope springs eternal in the hearts of the school board of six.

Objection to slot machines seems to come entirely from their opponents.

There appears to be need of a viaduct between the Scranton Republican and the mayor's office.

When marriage fails to open a man's eyes, then his case is indeed hopeless.

The crops of Easter eggs and Klondike parties are early and numerous.

CURRENT VERSE.

Vagaries of Spelling.

A fisherman sat on the quay Partaking of afternoon tony; When a lady came by And whistled, "No sugar for many."

A man was committed to the goal For stealing a tuppenny nail; The judge was severe, He struck him one year, Without any option of bail.

A grand old bootmaker of Hawarden Used to spend the whole day in his garden; When his friends asked him why He looked up at the sky, But only replied, "Pey you pawarden."

It is said that Nathaniel Pfenness Lived wholly on bread and broad; When invited to eat, He answered, "Just think what it mineness!"

A thoughtful young butcher named Mowll Had a tender and sensitive soul; When he slaughtered a sheep He always said, "I'm feeling my wail."

A sailor, who sported a queue, Was cleft in two that he knusee; If he came under fire He used to retire And say, with a bow, "After yeuee."

The Dowager Duke of Alectuere Was famous for Irish steech; When asked, "Do you use Any onion in steech?" He cautiously answered, "A feugh."

A groom of the royal demesne Was the finest old man ever seen; But he kept a dog, and in a ditch day and night, For fear of annoying the queene.

The amiable Commodore Haigh Set sail down the channel one dalg; When asked, "Do you know Which direction to go?" He answered, "I'm feeling my walg."

One autumn the Marquis of Seynes Shot a partridge with infinite peynes; When he cried, "It's a great shot, And of the havoc I've made! See—only one feather remains!"

Memento. The small boy stole his neighbor's grapes, His sin impressed him overmuch. A grin O'erspread his freckled little face As he broke bunches off and gobbled them in glee.

He ate, and did not think how wrong it was His neighbor's grapes before they were Half ripe!

But, oh! before the clock struck 12 That wicked boy was pale as chalk With fright. He realized at last how very great A sin It is to steal, though it be but A pin.

For awful was his stomach filled With woe, And he ejaculated, "Oh! Oh! Oh!"

The moral is—now heed it, boys— "Don't swish Your neighbor's grapes—at least until They're ripe." —Somerville Journal.

Remember Me.

"When this you see, dear friend, remember me." Old-fashioned, true and neither new nor clever; And yet expressing what will always be The longing hope, to be remembered.

How often have these simple, common words Implored the act of loving recollection; How oft have struck and sounded memory's chords And stirred emotions of a past affection.

And so my tribute to your book at last Comes but to this: wherever you may be, Think far away, though years on years have past, "When this you see, dear friend, remember me!" —E. W. Westcott (author of "David Harum.")

Keep A-Smiling.

If you've parted with yer cash, Keep a-smilin'; Never think of action rash, Keep a-smilin'; Never wish that you was dead, If you want to git ahead, Better hush'le up instead, Keep a-smilin'.

If yer feelin' kinder blue Keep a-smilin'; 'Tis the only thing to do, Keep a-smilin'; If the gossip tells her tales And yer character assails, 'Tis advice that never fails— Keep a-smilin'.

Trouble helps to make us strong, Keep a-smilin'; Try to sing a cheerful song, Keep a-smilin'; Better keep a pleasant face, Better hush'le up yer pace, I think you'll win the race, Keep a-smilin'.

—Joseph A. McGuire, in Buffalo News.

NO SECRET ALLIANCE.

From the Philadelphia Ledger.

The alarmists who have been apprehensive of a secret alliance between the United States and Great Britain should have their fears quieted by the official statement of Secretary Hay.

Resolving to the inquiries contained in a resolution of the House of Representatives, he says there is no truth in the charges of a secret alliance with the British empire; that no secret alliance, convention, arrangement or understanding exists between the United States and any other nation, and that, under the Constitution, all treaties require the advice and consent of the senate.

That Great Britain was friendly to us during the war with Spain is undeniable; but this was due to no secret compact, but to ties of race and self-interest.

Some of the European nations have alliances, and, in all probability, secret understandings with each other. 'Tis possible under their forms of government. Their contiguity geographically has made it necessary for them to make such arrangements for their mutual concern.

Washington's farwold address is studded with advice against meddling with the affairs of other nations and with argument that permits of no dispute. "This country has become great not merely because of its natural resources, but largely because of its form of government and its adherence to the policy shaped for the infant republic by Washington and the fathers.

Our army and navy are maintained for the protection of the United States, and are not to be requisitioned by any other power. Every instinct of patriotism enures us to attend to our own business

HEALTHY AMERICANISM.

From an Oration by Justice Harlan, of the United States Supreme Bench. Now, more than at any period in our history, is it necessary that we be faithful to sound principles of government and liberty regulated by law.

Our country has reached a critical and momentous period, and the most vigilant and the most unselfish patriotism are demanded from every genuine American.

The time has come when we must be like tossing a firebrand among stubble. Because of our constitution, of our traditional policy and of popular sentiment, we can have no secret alliance with any nation no matter how cordial its attitude may be towards us pro tem.

For my own part, I believe that a destiny awaits America such as has never been vouchsafed to any people, and that in the working out of that destiny, under the benignings of Providence, but manly everywhere will be lifted up and power and tyranny compelled to recognize the fact that "God is no respecter of persons," and that the "rich made of one blood all nations of men."

Let us have an abiding faith that our country will never depart from the fundamental principles of right and justice, or prove recreant to the high trusts committed to it for the benefit, not alone of the American people, but of all men everywhere on all the earth.

We have had our days of gloom and darkness. We have had political storms that seemed to threaten the destruction of our institutions; and now and then we may have been somewhat faint hearted as to our destiny and doubted whether all was well for the Great Republic.

But those storms passed away, and we realize that our apprehensions were groundless. We may expect storms in the future; for nothing worth preserving has ever been achieved by individuals or nations except through trials and sacrifices.

Take courage in the belief that the American people are pure in heart, and have no desire to oppress other than to maintain the authority of this nation wherever our flag floats, and to preserve unimpaird to the latest generation the free institutions given them by the fathers.

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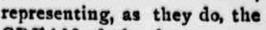
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