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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.

SCRANTON, FEBRUARY 27, 1900.

The suggestion of a correspondent in
another column that the programme
given on Saturday evening at the
Bicycle club house for the benefit of
the Home for the Friendless be re-
peated on a larger scale and open to
general patronage is apparently a
timely one.

Appropos of "Sapho."
THE PRACTICAL effect of the
public discussion of the
moral or immoral character
of the dramatic production
which is to appear in Scranton this
evening will be to jam the theater to
the doors. In the audience will be hun-
dreds of people who do not theoretically
appreciate "Sapho," but who neverthe-
less will be attracted to see "Sapho"
because of the air which its produc-
tion has occasioned elsewhere. They
will go to see "Sapho."

From what we have read and heard
concerning the play we suspect that,
in point of suggestiveness, it will not
come up to its reputation; but unques-
tionably it belongs to a class of
plays which depend for their financial
success upon their catering to sensual
instincts. Just as there are persons not
below the average in moral purity who
will exhibit immediate interest in sensu-
ous dramas or study plays, so there
are those who will read with avidity
the off-color book or rush to attend the
frivolous drama. These persons are not
particularly vicious; as friends and
neighbors they compare favorably with
the people who are stricter in appear-
ances, but by their easy-going ways
they make possible a lot of unques-
tioned mischief in the world and if they
realized it fully they would probably
repent and amend their ways.

Some taint is inevitable in every walk
in life; but it is a pity that in the case
of an institution which has within it
the educational possibilities of the
theater there should appear to be a
disposition to make taint the predomi-
nant stock in trade. This is unhealth-
ful. It will hurt the theater, in the
long run, fully as much as it is hurt-
ing the community at large. A stage
given over to obscenity or evil sug-
gestion cannot permanently widen but
must soon contract its circle of sup-
port. The American people are not
prudent, but at the same time they are
not without self-respect. They will
some day tire of unsavory theatrical
diet and then the real drama will have
its chance.

In the meantime, the wise plan is to
take these troubles philosophically.

Intelligent generalship does not make
sacrifice of life in mere stubbornness.
The proper name for that is inhuman
fanaticism.

The Proffered Compromise.

THE COMPROMISE reported
to have been offered by the
Republican leaders in con-
gress to the Republican
members who will not accept the 25 per
cent. tariff bill for Puerto Rico seems
like a giving away of one of the
majority's main contentions. If the need
of Puerto Rico is revenue, a 10 or 15
per cent. rate will hardly suffice. Its
imposition would, however, sustain the
argument that the constitution does
not necessarily, and by its own inher-
ent power, extend to captured territory.

The willingness of the majority to
accept a still further reduced tariff,
levied only temporarily, absolves it
from suspicion on the score of being
under the influence of the trusts. A
10 or 15 per cent. tariff would afford
no advantage to any trust. It would
simply be a nominal duty levied with
a view to establishing the right of
the federal government to differentiate
between the tariff legislation of the
mainland and that of the dependencies.

If the establishment of this precedent
is the main consideration, the majority
is justified in yielding on non-essentials.

Count Castellano has wisely conclud-
ed that a liberal suit is a much more
dignified, if not so satisfactory a method
of settling difficulties with the enemy.

The Broader View.

THE LEADING American
authority in his line, the
Engineering News, takes no
stock in the contention that
if the United States shall build the
Niagara canal it will need to fortify
it so as to be able to close it to an
enemy's warships in the event of war.
In modern warfare the natural objec-
tive of a naval force, the News points
out, is not the enemy's coast but his
ships. Modern coast defense renders it
impracticable for a fleet to attack a
fortified port until it has first swept the
opposing fleets from the seas, if at all.
In other words, the proper manner for
the United States to fortify the
Niagara canal would be, as Admiral
Dewey says, to have a navy sufficient
to keep an enemy's ships away from
the canal.

But, says the News, the great value
of the canal will be commercial rather
than military. "The United States is
awakening to its destiny as the great-
est manufacturing and trading nation
of the earth. American producers have
shown that with a fair field and no
favors they can compete in the world's
markets and come off victorious. We
have just achieved one of the greatest
triumphs ever scored by American dip-
lomacy in securing international
agreement for the 'open door' in China.
It would ill become us now to adopt
a narrow and illiberal policy, in open-

ing a highway between the world's two
great oceans. The gift which nature
bestowed on mankind, in making the
neck of land which joins the two Amer-
ican continents so narrow that it may
be pierced by human agencies, is a gift
bestowed on the human race, and not
on this nation alone. If we, by our en-
terprise, are the first to open a passage
through the barrier, we may justly
claim a reward from those who benefit
by this highway commensurate with
our risk and the outlay in making it,
but to seek to monopolize its use would
be contrary to our highest national as-
pirations, as well as an injury to our
best interests.

"Similarly in regard to the military
aspects of the canal. No one can doubt
that the temper of the American
people is not for war, but for peace. We
should be blind to recent events if we
did not appreciate and prize anew the
evidence that the seas which roll be-
tween us and the other great nations
of the world are a defense far stronger
than all the armaments of Europe. We
do not need the canal to protect us
from foreign aggression. Our strength,
actual and potential, is so great that
we need fear no foreign foe. We have
stood among the nations for the prin-
ciple of arbitration instead of war; we
have favored the extension of the prin-
ciple of neutrality to cover all private
property on the high seas in time of
war. Certainly, then, it would ill be-
come us to object to the neutralization
of the canal through the Central
American isthmus, and we believe that
the treaty which Secretary Hay has
drafted, and of which he has secured
the approval of Great Britain, is favor-
ed by a great majority of the American
people."

It grows in favor the more it is
studied.

An interesting feat in journalism has
recently been performed in London in
the establishment of Manchester of a
plant to print exact duplicates of the
London Daily Mail. The contents of
the latter paper, item by item, together
with the order of make-up, are tele-
graphed to Manchester over special
leased wires and thus the Mail is en-
abled to get into the North of Eng-
land and Scotland four hours ahead
of all competitors. It is a wonder some
American hustler does not try this
plan.

The Reason Why.

IF WE MAY ACCEPT the word of
Mr. Wellman, Washington cor-
respondent of the Chicago Times-
Herald, an interesting story lies
behind the flap of the Republican lead-
ers in congress from free trade with
Puerto Rico to a differential tariff.
It involved a scheme to drive Cuba
into the United States. There are pow-
erful financial and commercial influ-
ences which have long been at work to
effect the annexation of Cuba. They
have maintained in New York a well-
equipped literary bureau and have ne-
glected no opportunity to advance the
object of their desire, and the proposi-
tion of free trade with Puerto Rico,
if Mr. Wellman's information be cor-
rect, was one of the cleverest of their
many clever moves. As Mr. Wellman
says, "Cuba and Puerto Rico are to a
large extent competitors in the Ameri-
can market, due to the similarity of
their climate and production. If
Puerto Rico were given free access to
the markets of the United States, while
Cuba has to pay full tariff rates, the
former would enter upon an era of un-
paralleled prosperity while the latter
was struggling along against the ad-
verse tariff discrimination. Inevitably,
it was argued, the object lesson of
Puerto Rico's advantage as an Ameri-
can colony would drive the people of
Cuba into seeking the same or a more
intimate relationship to the great re-
public. The contrast would be made so
striking that even the dullest or most
intensely patriotic Cuban must see that
the only salvation of the island lay in
annexation. It is doubtful if President
McKibben fully understood the motive
behind the Puerto Rican free trade
proposition when he made the recom-
mendation in his message, but the men
who are interested in Cuba's future
from the industrial and capitalistic
standpoint did thoroughly understand it.
The president saw that the people of
Puerto Rico were anxious to become
American citizens, that they needed an
open market here in order that they
might regain their lost prosperity, and
in good faith he declared it to be our
plain duty to give them free trade
with this country."

But Mr. Wellman goes on to explain
how it came about that the Republican
leaders found out that the Democrats,
if the free trade idea should be adopted,
intended to raise a great labor scare in
this country, telling the American
workmen that free trade with
Puerto Rico meant free trade with the
Philippines and hopeless competition
against underpaid "coolie" and Malay
labor; and how they then changed
about and took up the low tariff idea,
not as a concession to any trust or
special interest but as an act of political
expediency or self-protection. He says
the president appreciates the political
necessity for this apparent reversal of
policy and is favorable to the 25 per
cent. tariff but as a matter of propriety
cannot make public admission of his
change of opinion. "This unfortunate
complication," Mr. Wellman adds,
"which threatens the Republican ma-
jority in the house with disruption and
may lead to the most serious political
consequences, is an indication of the
delicate nature of many of the new
questions arising out of the nation's
new responsibilities. The president
could not foresee that a recommenda-
tion of free trade with Puerto Rico was
to lead to such trouble nor is it likely
that the men who prepared the ground
for the recommendation as a means of
whipping Cuba into annexation were
able to foresee the sort of a political
homecoming they were dealing with."

It is no crime to change one's mind.
No man is infallible. Better by far a
willingness to correct a mistake than
stubborn persistence in error.

The recent raids on get-rich-quick
concerns in Chicago have shown a
degree of prosperity on the part of
these institutions, indicating that the
oft-repeated statement that a fool is
born every minute is a very meagre
estimate of the increase of this class
of population. The get-rich-quick
business masquerades under many

titles. But from the well-cut land
scheme to the nickel-in-the-slot swindle,
the principle is the same, and the
man who does not get rich at the first
turn of the wheel will sooner or later
realize that he has been a contributor
to the fund which is entirely monopol-
ized by the people who live by their
wits. It is impossible honestly to get
something for nothing, no matter how
alluring the prospectus may be.

The Luck of Mayor Hart.
MAYOR THOMAS N. HART, of Boston,
conducted his own campaign in a
masterly manner. The situation was
peculiarly delicate. Normally, Boston
is Democratic, but at the December elec-
tion there was a bolting wing of the
Democratic party, expressed her dis-
satisfaction by the election of an
unwise sentiment to return its allegiance
to the Democratic candidate. Mr. Hart
threw himself for a short campaign
with few speeches. There were no mis-
takes, and the bolting Democracy elected
Mr. Hart.

There was "all over but the shout-
ing," Mr. Hart, in conversation with one
of the Republican leaders, said:
"This campaign reminds me of the old
southern darkey who was brought before
the court charged with robbing a
woman with few speeches. There were no mis-
takes, and the bolting Democracy elected
Mr. Hart.

"No, sah," said the colored brother
with a grin; "I've been mighty lucky, sah."

After one experience with an auto-
mobile, which gave out and left him on
the road five miles from home, the
other day, General Shafter has re-
solved that the Santiago campaign
auto is the only reliable vehicle
for road excursions.

Outline Studies
of Human Nature

Horse Trade Rules.
DAVID HARMAN was a good horse trad-
er, but a recent transaction in horse-
flesh which was made by a well-known
Memphis shrewd, that there was some-
thing about it that he did not like.

"Well," said the Memphis, "I gave
one fifty for her, but I will let you have
her for one sixty-five."

The prospective owner looked the animal
over and concluded he had a bargain.

Competent judges have estimated the
number of deer slain by sportsmen in
Maine in one season to 10,000.

While 3 cents is the lowest price at
which one can get shaved in New York
the lowest price for a haircut is 5 cents.

A Texas is the greatest pecan nut grow-
ing state in the Union. It produces two-
thirds of the pecan nuts that are mar-
keted.

A Chicago company proposes to furnish
electric light and trolley power for San
Juan, Porto Rico and all the country for
miles around.

The Salvation Army has taken a halt
in the Drakensburg Mountains, in Natal,
is a natural formation known as
Napoleon's Kop. It gives an excellent
bust representation of the Little Cor-
poral.

As now survived from New York to
Buenos Ayres the intended Pan-American
railroad would be 10,221 miles long.

In Manila the Presbyterian mission-
aries hold services every Sunday in the
Young Men's Christian association tent,
and on Thursday evening in the private
residence of a Filipino, who himself has
been a Bible reader for many years.

An association of women in Oregon
has been formed to work against the
woman's suffrage amendment which is to
be voted on in that state next year.

These women say that woman's suffrage
has proved a failure in school elections.

An Ohio man has patented a street car
floor which will prevent people treading
on sitting passengers' toes, the edges of
the floor being double, with the upper
thickness supported at intervals on
brackets to lift it high enough to allow
the passengers' toes to slip under.

The Second Unitarian church of Bos-
ton, recently celebrated its two hundred
and fiftieth anniversary. Samuel Mather
was the first minister of this church.

Another of the monster blazes which
are at intervals brought off the forest
quarters at Furness, on Lochmendo,
Argyleshire, took place recently and
proved successful. There were four tons
of powder used, and it was estimated
that some 20,000 tons of rock were de-
molished by that blast.

A SUGGESTION.
Editor of The Tribune:
Sir: The writer is one of many in this
city that was debarred, owing to the
limited number of tickets issued, from the
pleasure of witnessing the very in-
teresting entertainment given at the
Scranton Bicycle club house, Saturday
evening for the benefit of the Home for
the Friendless. I naturally take inter-
est in the success of this excellent char-
acter, and knowing somewhat the senti-
ment of the people relative to the novelty
of the programme rendered, respectfully
suggest that the managers of the Home
for the Friendless give an opportunity
to the general public to witness this
magnificent entertainment at popular
prices on the Lyceum stage at an early
date as arrangements can be made,
thereby adding many dollars to this
worthy charity. Respectfully yours,

Scranton, Feb. 25.
L. K. Torbet.

Judged by His Apparel.
THE DUKE of Norfolk, who has voluntar-
ily resigned the position of post-
master general in the British cabinet
with the idea of going to the front in
South Africa, is one of the richest peers
in England, as well as a leading repre-
sentative of the Roman Catholic religion
in the house of lords. He is noted for his
kind heart and for his utter disregard for
his personal appearance, relates the Chi-
cago Tribune. So far is he from a proud
and haughty disposition that he is known
by the tenants on his estates as "Uncle
Henry." Because of the poor clothes
which he wears he has been the subject
of some serious and amusing anecdotes.
On one occasion he had engaged to dis-

tribute the price to the pupils at a con-
vention. Instead of riding to the convent
in state he walked, and was met in the
grounds by one of the Sisters, who, judg-
ing from his appearance that he was an
ecclesiastic for charity, expressed her sur-
row that relief was not distributed on
that day.

"Why, the judge asked the old man,
looking at him sharply and speaking in
his sternest manner: 'Were you ever in
court before for stealing chickens?'"

"No, sah," said the colored brother
with a grin; "I've been mighty lucky, sah."

In Rag Time Attire.
"FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE, tell that new
servant of yours to get a new dress
before she comes here tomorrow. She
is positively too slovenly to come into
the dining room."

"What's the matter with her?" asked
the mistress.

"No, boss," said the girl, speaking for
herself. "I've done some things, but I
just can't remember 'em, and you can't
remember 'em, but my personal 'pear-
ance,"—Memphis Scimitar.

MR. LITTLEFIELD'S PERORA-
TION.
From His Recent Speech in Congress.

"May our flag float over the whole re-
public, in the Occident and the Orient;
over the Pearl of the Antilles and the
Blue Islands near the tip of Cuba; upon
land and sea; over school, home, and
church, the emblem of our integrity and
good faith, of liberty and freedom, of the
inestimable blessing of a Christian civil-
ization, of human rights guaranteed by
the Constitution, not dependent upon the
evanescent will of state or national legis-
latures; of our official and their own
shadows; rights embodied in the Consti-
tution, not floating as empty bubbles on
the perturbed surface of eloquent pro-
cessions; rights that are eternal and
world-wide, not ephemeral and circum-
scribed, of opportunity, not oppression,
and of regeneration, not repression. Thus,
and thus only, shall it be and ever re-
main, by the blessing and favor of Al-
mighty God, the unshuffled and untarn-
ished symbol of our honor and glory
and splendor."

IN A NUTSHELL.
Walter Wellman in the Times-Herald.

An acre or two of space in the Con-
gressional Record has been filled during
the last week with learned discussions
of the great constitutional question whether
or not the United States can hold colonies
and govern them as other great nations
govern colonies, but no one has said a
better thing than bluff old General Haw-
ley uttered at a college dinner here last
night.

"This great nation of ours," said Sen-
ator Hawley, "was not born deformed."

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Roll Top Desks,
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Standing Desks,
Typewriter Desks,
and Office Chairs

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men. Prices from
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CHALLIES

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and take pleasure in calling
your attention to the same,
representing, as they do, the
CREAM of the best manu-
facturers' line for 1900. Dif-
fering from last season when
most everything shown was
in Blacks and Navys, this
season's line comes in colors
and shades more appropriate
for a summer garment and
comprises the New Blues,
Greys, Heliotropes, Fawns,
etc., etc., both in the "Natu-
ral Foulard" and "Liberty
Satin" finish.

Our Challies
Are too handsome to de-
scribe and our assortment
NOW is far more extensive
than in any season heretofore,
but on account of the scarcity
in all the finer grades, this
condition will only last for a
limited time, and early buy-
ers will get by far the best
selection.

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siring for class use in picture study,
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inexpensive will find these beautiful
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of enameled metal. I used
a 5-cent package and they
did good work. I like them
ever so much.

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