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When space will permit, The Tribune is always glad to orint 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 Bleycle club house for the benefit of the Home for the Friendless be repeated on a larger scale and open to general patronage is apparently a

Apropos of "Sapho."

HE PRACTICAL effect of the public discussion of the meral or immeral character of the denuacie production which is to appear in Scranton this evening will be to jam the theater to the forms. In the audience will be hundreds of to only who do not theoret carly tible of the indecency but who nevers the cracult be attracted to see "Sanbo" hanter of the stir which its productive has occasioned elsewhere. They will yield to curlosity.

From what we have read and heard the retring the play we suspect that, it rolet of suggestiveness it will not a come up to his evil reputation; but unparticularly victors; as friends and plan, neighbors they compare favorably with the people who are stricter in appearances; but by their easy-going ways they make possible a lot of unnecessary 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 predominant stock in trade. This is unhealthful. It will hurt the theater, in the long run, fully as much as it is hurting the community at large. A stage given over to obscenity or evil suggestion cannot permanently widen but must soon contract its circle of support. The American people are not prudish, 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

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

The Proffered Compromise.

HE COMPROMISE reported Republican teaders in congress to the Republican members who will not accept the 25 per cent, turiff bill for Puerto Rico seems like a giving away of one of the majority's main contentions. If the need per cent, rate will hardly suffice. Its imposition would, however, sustain the argument that the constitution does ent power, extend to captured terri-

The willingness of the majority to 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-

Count Castellane has wisely concluded that a libel suit is a much more dignifled, if not so satisfactory a method of settling difficulties with the editor.

The Broader View.

ME LEADING American stock in the contention that if the United States shall build the Nicaragua 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 objective 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 Nicaragua 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 greatest 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 triumphs ever scored by American diplomacy din 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 American 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 enterprise, are the illist to open a passage through the barrier, we may just'y 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 e contrary to our highest national aspirations, as well as an injury to our est interests.

Similarly in regard to the military spects of the canal. No one can doubt 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 between 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 foc. We have stood among the nations for the principle of arbitration instead of war; we have favored the extension of the principle of neutrality to cover all private property on the high seas in time of war. Certainly, then, it would ill become 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 favored 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 storage in moral purity who graphed to Manchester over special will exhibit immediate interest in scan- leased wires and thus the Mall is endelicus necesia or a shady story, so there abled to get into the North of Engwho will read with avidity land and Scotland four hours ahead the off color book or rush to attend the of all competitors. It is a wonder some tainted drams. These persons are not American hustler does not try this

The Reason Why.

T F WE MAY ACCEPT the word of Mr. Wellman, Washington correspondent of the Chicago Times-Herald, an interesting story lies behind the flop of the Republican leaders 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 powerful financial and commercial influences which have long been at work to effect the annexation of Cuba. They have maintained in New York a wellequipped literary bureau and have neglected no opportunity to advance the object of their desire, and the proposition of free trade with Puerto Rico, if Mr. Wellman's information be correct, was one of the cleverest of their many clever moves. As Mr. Wellman says, "Cuba and Puerto Rico are to a Scimitar, large extent competitors in the American market, due to the similarity of their climate and production. If O NE OF THOSE QUICK and happy re-Puerto Rico were given free access to Puerto Rico were given free access to torts that spring readily to the yan-the markets of the United States, while kee tongue was made by the young De-Cuba has to pay full tariff rates, the former would enter upon an era of unparalleled prosperity while the latter was struggling along against the adverse tariff discrimination. Inevitably, it was argued, the object lesson of Puerto Rico's advantage as an American colony would drive the people of to have been offered by the Cuba into seeking the same or a more intimate relationship to the great republic. The contrast would be made so present and debate was running high striking that even the dullest or most with the young Detroiter as the only intensely patriotic Cuban must see that the only salvation of the island lay in annexation. It is doubtful if President of Puerto Rico is revenue, a 10 or 15 McKingoy fully understood the motive beeind the Puerto Rican free trade proposition when he made the recommendation in his message, but the men not necessarily, and by its own inher- who are interested in Cuba's future from the industrial and capitalistic standpoint did thoroughly understand it. The president saw that the people accept a still further reduced tariff, 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 workingmen 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 authority in its line, the necessity for this apparent reversal of Engineering News, takes no | 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 His feelings may be imagined by any complication." Mr. Wellman adds, deting parent. "which threatens the Republican majority 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 recommendation of free trade with Puerto Rico was to lead to such trouble nor is it likely that the men who prepared the ground for that recommendation as a means of whipping Cuba into annexation were able to foresee the sort of a political boomerang they were dealing with." It is no crime to change one's mind.

The recent raids on get-rich-quick concerns in Chicago have shown a degree of prosperity on the part of have just achieved one of the greatest | these institutions, indicating that the

No man is infallible. Better by far a

willingness to correct a mistake than

stubborn persistence in error.

titles. But from the wild-cat 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 monopofixed by the people who live by their wits. It is impossible honestly to get omething for nothing, no matter how alluring the prospectus may be,

Our esteemed contemporary, the In dianapolis Press, after hesitating long between love of Senator Beveridge and natural desire to be "agin the government," has at last taken its place among the anti-expansionists, and, with the zeal characteristic of a young convert, proceeds to prove its worth by a prodigious lung power. In the sad eye of the Press, this great and glorious republic is now committed to "commercial exploitation, trust perpetuation, politica; demoralization, congressional usurpation, all under the hypocritical plea of 'benevolent assimilation' and covered by the sanctified cloak of reigious propogation!" And yet our contemporary gets three meals a day.

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

Outline Studies of Human Nature

Horse Trade Rules.

D AVID HARUM was a good horse trader, but a recent transaction in horse-flesh which was made by a well-known Memphian shows that there are others the establishment at Manchaster of a horse trade. Several weeks ago this questionably it belongs to a class of plant to print exact duplicates of the Memphis man saw a fine buggy horse plays which depend for their financial London Daily Mail. The contents of which he thought he wanted. He located plays which depend for their financial London Daily Mall. The contents of success upon their catering to sensual the latter paper, item by item, together instincts. Just as there are persons not with the order of make-up, are telehe concluded it was a good trade, and without more ado wrote a check for the amount. The next day he found that the mare was as blind as a bat, but this did not hinder her speed nor detract from her general appearance. He drove the animal for several weeks and succeeded in attracting the admiration of another lover of horseflesh, who made a proposal to purchase.

"Well," said the Memphian, "I gave miles, one fifty for her, but I will let you have The

her for one sixty-five."

The prospective owner looked the animal over and concluded he had a bar-He paid over the money and took When the animal was unhitched the first thing she did was to run against a post, and then by way of emphasizing the fact she was blind, fell over a barrel. The next day the buyer came back to the Memphian with blood

in his eye.
"Colonel, you know that mare you sold me," he began. "Well, she's stone blind."
"I know it," replied the colonel, with an easy air.

'You didn't say anything to me about said the purchaser, his face reddening with anger.
"Well, I tell you," replied the colonel. "That fellow who sold her to me didn't tell me about it, and I just concluded that he didn't want it known."

The new owner took his medicine and is now on the lookout for a friend on whom he can even things .- Memphis

trelter who recently gave a most entertaining lecture upon his impressions of Greece. He came back from abread on an Eng-

Being genial and of an investigating turn of mind, he was soon on terms of intimacy with all the officers. Because of the wars in which Britain and in Paris close to the Exposition build-this country are respectively engaged and ingss where services will be conducted divided opinions as to the merits of these daily for the benefit of visitors. controversies, carnest but good-natured champion of America. He had his back to the wall and kept his head like a veteran. He parried and thrust with such rapidity that his assailants were sore puzzled as to the best mode of attack. Finally the big engineer made this hrust: "Well, it begins to look to me as though there was no way but for England to go at it and lick your bloom-

in' country."
"What, again?" came quick as a flash and with laughing sarcasm. It took a full minute to digest the two words. Then there was a hearty roar of English bilarity and they putted the Detroiter admiringly on the back. "In fighting and talking these yankees are ugly customers," commented the en-gineer.-Detroit Free Press.

Novel Mail Matter.

O NE DAY several years ago a mail clerk, who is still in the service with duties at one of the railway stations Detroit as transfer clerk, took his little betroit as transfer clerk, took his little son along with him on the Grand Rapida and Detroit run. It was not the first trip the youngster had made with his father, and the novelty had worn off to a certain extent. At one point of the run the clerk was very busy "slinging" his mail, and his attention for a time was withdrawn from the movements of the little companion. When he at last looked around he was horrified to find that his son was nowhere in sight. Visions of a fall out of the car during

the swift running of the train flashed across the father's mind, and the cold perspiration stood out on his forehead as thought of the little, mangled form my along the track miles behind him. Work for the father was quite impossible for the remainder of the run to the next He was alone in his cur, and there was no way of communicating with any of the train crew until they stopped.

"Jimmie! Jimmie!" frantically called the agonized father, "Oh, what will become of your mother? Jimmle! Jimmle! Where are you, my little man?" Suddenly there was a movement in one of the open pouches hanging to a hock-one of the pouches that was to be thrown off at an approaching station and the little, frowsy head of the missing soy pretruded from the opening like the

ther's eyes, "Here I is, pape," the child replied, "I ess I been asteep."
He has never had the opportunity to
his a pap in a United States mail bag since that occasion.-Detroit Free Press.

ng of the sun of gladness to the

Judged by His Apparel.

THE DUKE of Norfolk, who has votun-ivered to resign the position of posi-master general in the British cabinet master general in the British cabinet with the blea of going to the front in South Africa, is one of the richest peers in England, as well as a leading repre-rentative 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

tribute the prizes to the pupils at a convent. Instead of riding to the convent in state he walked, and was met in the are state he walked, and was met in the grounds by one of the Sisters, who, judging from his appearance that he was an applicant for charity, expressed her sorrow that relief was not distributed on

"I know, Sister," said the Duke, "but you do distribute prizes, and I have come to distribute them for you."

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 elections. tions there was a bolting wing of the Democracy that threatened at the first sign of a mistake or the utterance of an unwise sentiment to return its allegimee to the Democratic candilate. Mr. Hart therefore planned for a short campaign with few speeches. There were no mis-takes, and the bolting Democracy elected Mr. Hart.

When it 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 darky who was brought before the court for stealing chickens."
"In what way?" some one asked

"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; Tse been mighty lucky, sah. "And so have I," said Mr. Hart with a hearty laugh.—Saturday Evening Post.

In Rag Time Attire. .. FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE, tell that new servant of yours to get a new dress before she comes here tomorrow.

is positively too slovenly to come into the dining room." This "heavy" was dealt out by a sub-urbanite to his wife the other morning. She informed the negress of the desire of the master of the house, but that gen-tleman had no idea his instructions would

be so well carried out.

When the breakfast was brought in the following morning what was his surprise to behold the negress togged out in a magnificent evening dress, with sparklers In her hair and other adornments on her bure arms and neck. "What's all this" he cried. "Have you

fixed that other girl and got an Egyptian princess in her place?" "No, boss," sald the girl, speaking for herself. "I'se de same nigger, but I jess put on muh rag-time clo'es, as yeu wuz so partic'ier 'bout muh pussonal 'pear-ance,''-Memphis Scimitar.

NUBS OF KNOWLEDGE.

The Christian Endeavor society is now represented in every country of the

The total distance of the projected "Cape to Cairo" railroad in Africa is 5,661 The Salvation Army has opened a new

food and shelter depot at Wellington, New Zealand. A miner's lamp, using acetylene gas, has been introduced into the Selbeck

mines of Germany.

The grandson of the first woman become a Christian in Zululand was recently ordained a missionary.

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

While 3 conts is the lowest price at

which one can get shaved in New York the lowest price for a hair-cut is 5 cents. A hunter has been employed by the Canadian government to kill wild ani-mais for its exhibit at the Paris Exposi-

Texas is the greatest pecan nut growing state in the Union. It produces two-A Chicago company proposes to furnish

electric light and trolley power for San Juan, Porto Rico and all the country for miles around.
This year the United States will export about 80,000,000 of which will be in the

form of flour. Eighteen thousand bills and joint resolutions were presented by members in the last congress, 12,608 in the house and 5,855 in the senate.

Lake shipping furnishes the cheapest transportation in the world, the rate being approximately three-quarters of a mill per ton per mile. The Salvation Army has taken a half

Africa, is a magnificent natural curiosity One afternoon most of the officers were It is nearly 4,000 feet in height, and has present and debate was running high a level top about three square miles in

area. 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-

As now surveyed from New York to Buenos Ayres the intended Pan-American railroad would be 10,221 miles long. To finish and equip it would cost at least \$200,000,000,

Manila the Presbyterian missionaries hold services every Sunday in the Young Men's Christian association's tent, and on Thursday evening in the private residences 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 woman's suffrage has proved itself 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. Afterward Increase and Cotton Mather filled the pulpit, and it was here that Emerson served his only pastorate. The first armored trains used in war-

fare were crudely built affairs and originated during the civil war. In spite of this early use, it is a strange fact that no patents have been issued in this country for armored cars, though English inprovements. It has been almost universally noted,

says the Family Doctor, that wherever in the world flesh-eating is increasing, cancer is increasing at the same ratio The rice-cating natives of India are almost wholly free from cancer, while pork-eaters and free users of animal food suffer from it.

Another of the monster blasts which are at intervals brought off at the large quarries at Furnace, on Lochfyneside, Argyleshire, took place recently and proved successful. There were four tens of powder used, and it was estimated that some 30,000 tons of rock were dislodged by that blast.

A SUGCESTION. 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 interesting entertainment Scranton Bicycle ciab evening for the benefit of the Home for the Friendiess. I naturally take inter-est in institutions of this excellent character, and knowing somewhat the sentiment 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 as early a date as arrangements can be made, thereby adding many dollars to this worthy charity. Respectfully yours. L. K. Torbet,

Scranton, Feb. 26.

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Miss Mickie, of the Young Wemen's Christian association gymnastum, undertake a post interesting enter-

Miss Mickie will take entire charge and will themselves attend to the household duties. There are rooms for ten guests and these will be taken at the modest rate of three dollars a week. They will be expected to take care of their own rooms but will be provided excellent

card old pieces this spring may do a good deel by making a contribution to this home where hard working young wo-men can find a few days' rest which otherwise they would be unable to afford.

. . . .

A when he is masquerading as a wo-man is unique. Secretary Atherton confided to his triends last week that he should wear a "gasoline challie gown" at the cake walk with many beautiful

skirts and a bias around the train. Of

course he meant stikeline and in his mind ruffles and flounces were confounded with

bias pieces. If a mon undertakes to tell about a woman's frack he is sure to use the term "bias" as he seems to labor under the hallucination that this word means almost everything intricate and stylish. Those who saw Mr. Atherton's

make up Saturday night will not be sur-prised to learn that it was slightly be-

M ISS ROCKWELL, who helped to make the cake walk so decided a success, is a niece of Mrs. W. D. Boyer. Her father holds a very promi-

Boyer. Her father holds a very promi-nent position in connection with the Brooklyn Eagle, being chief of the court

department. His daughter is talented

MR. LITTLEFIELD'S PERORA-

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 10,000 Islands near far off Cathay, up a

land and sea, over school, home, and church, the emblem of our integrity and good faith, of liberty and freedom, of the

inestimable blessings of a Christian civi-

lization, of human rights guaranteed by

vanescent will of state or national legis-

atures, too often affrighted at their own

shadows; rights imbedded in the Consti

tution, not floating as empty bubbles on the perturbed surface of elequent pero-

rations; rights that are eternal and world-wide, not ephermeral 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 unsuilled and untar-nished symbol of our henor and glory

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 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

ley uttered at a college dinner here last

"This great nation of ours," said Sena tor Hawley, "was not born deformed."

OFFICE

better thing than bluff old General Hav

the Constitution, not dependent upon the

and attractive.

and splendor.'

wildering to his masculine intellect.

MAN'S description of his costume

will undertake a rest interesting enter-prise the coming summer in the estab-lishing of a summer home for self-sup-porting girls. The house is a cottage at Lake Ariel loaned for the purpose by Mr. Charles Schlager. It is to be occupied during the months of June, July, Au-gust and September. Miss Doersam and Miss Mickle will take entire charge and will themselves attend to the household We have now a full line of all makes of Watches that we guarantee to pass.

Buy your Watches of au old reliable house. Not som agent who will open shop for two or three months and then ski, out. We are here to stay. Our guarantee is "as good as gold," Prices as low as any.

rooms but will be provided excellent board and more privileges than are usually found at summer reserts at more than double the cost. Already the month of August is filled with applicants. The present difficulty is the furnishings of the cottage. The chief stock on hand seems to be in the shape of soup plates of various designs and decorations. Other things are needed and anything in the way of bedroom furniture is specially desired. King friends who will discard old pieces this spring may do a good MERCEREAU & CONNELL 130 Wyoming Ave. Coal Exchange.

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talety Fuse, Caps and Axploders Room 101 Connell dual haz

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CHALLIES

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Our Challies

Are too handsome to describe 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 buyers will get by far the best selection.

See our exhibit this week.

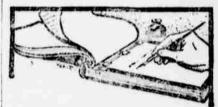
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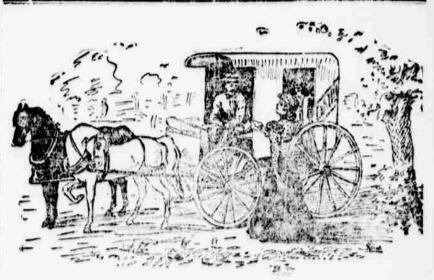
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I want you to get me one 25c. box of Ripans Tabules (color of chocolate) in a box of enameled metal. I used a 5-cent package and they did good work. I like them ever so much.