

The Scranton Tribune

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When space will permit, The Tribune is always glad to accept of contributions bearing on current topics, but its friends should 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, MARCH 14, 1900.

The city of Scranton, we repeat, is too big a place to dwarf its prestige at the state capital by sending to represent it in the legislature absolutely inexperienced men. Re-elect Farr and Schauer.

Concerning Editor Sheldon.

NUMBER of friends have written to say that they think we are too harsh in calling the Sheldon newspaper enterprise "blasphemous." One correspondent, a respected clergyman of Scranton, fears that a repetition of such an expression might result disastrously to The Tribune. He adds: "While I do not think that if Jesus were on earth He would edit a newspaper, even after the style of Mr. Sheldon, yet I think the world would be better if newspaper editors were more particular concerning some of the matter they print." Another gentleman, residing in Factoryville, writes: "You have spoken of Rev. Mr. Sheldon as presumptuous. Do you consider it presumptuous to think that Christ would exclude prize fights and domestic difficulties which are so aggravated until they become ridiculous?"

For the sake of harmony but not in any fear of "disastrous results," we are willing to change "blasphemous" into "irreverent." Our objection to the Sheldon exploit is that the man does not exist who has any right to assume to say "what Jesus would do." To make such an assumption the basis of a widely-advertised commercial exploit, even though the intent may be honest, is to cheapen the livery of religion. No commission has been given to Rev. Charles M. Sheldon or any other minister of the gospel to go into newspaper offices any more than into butcher shops, drug goods stores, hotels, or railroad offices, and give object lessons on the assumption that his ideas are Christ's ideas and that he is a special and unique medium of communication between the finite and the infinite. It is possible that in the role of editor Mr. Sheldon will display many instances of good judgment and sound common sense. This cannot justify his basic assumption, which, however well meant, is distinctly presumptuous and opposed to a refined sense of religious propriety.

We agree perfectly with the Syracuse Post-Standard, a thoroughly reputable and representative paper, in its opinion that "while this age of ours may not be a devoutly religious age, the people who live in America today are mostly either reverent from principle, themselves, or sufficiently courteous to respect the feelings of those who are; and to see a minister of the Gospel, who should be doing his best to make Christianity beautiful and worshipful, sitting in a newspaper office, smugly desiring reporters not to smoke, and refusing corset and theater advertisements, pretending thereby to imitate the character of those whose names millions of men and women never mention except in prayer, that is not characteristic of the best things that Christianity teaches."

President Jayne's suggestion that if new school buildings are to be built the funds should be obtained by bonding the district and not by a direct tax is business-like and timely. It is proper that the cost of an expensive educational plant should be distributed over a series of years and over more than one generation of the beneficiaries.

The Puerto Rico Problem.

THE AGREEMENT reported to have been reached in the senate on the Puerto Rican question is better than prolonged delay, but it is hardly satisfactory. It provides for a duty, equal to 15 per cent. of the Dingley rate, upon imports from Puerto Rico, the revenue thus raised to be handed over to Puerto Rico; but exports from the United States to Puerto Rico are to be admitted into that island duty free. In connection with this arrangement the \$2,000,000 refund of duties recommended by the president and endorsed by the house is to be authorized, and a temporary form of civil government is to be established in such a manner as not to constitute an acceptance of the Democratic contention that the constitution immediately follows the flag.

This adjustment is unsatisfactory mainly because of the apparent color which it lends to the theory that its intention is to exploit Puerto Rico. To tax its imports at our ports while admitting free our exports into its ports is not the injustice which it seems to be, for the reason that the articles which we are now exporting to Puerto Rico are for the greater part necessities of the inhabitants of that island, a duty upon which would, by adding itself to the selling price, have the effect of a tax. These articles include food, building materials, machinery necessary for the development of the island's agriculture and other resources, and manufactures. In the island's present condition, to permit these articles to enter without payment of duty is a real contribution to the welfare of its inhabitants; but on its face this is not so clear that the opponents of the 15 per cent. tariff feature will be unable to turn the seeming discrepancy to partisan account. An alternative proposition, submitted

by Senator Foraker, offers to remove all tariff restrictions save a nominal duty on some one article, imposed for the purpose of establishing the Republican party's position as to the right of congress to legislate for territories separately and to fit particular conditions. This would not solve the Puerto Rican revenue problem, which would have to be provided for in other ways; but it would save the sentimental hallucination that Puerto Rico is not to be treated fairly. The letter from Colonel Hitchcock, in another column, exhibits the condition of unrest which pervades the country on this subject and which makes imperative an early conclusion of the suspense.

It is unfortunate that our board of control should esteem itself so wise as not to make the explanations or advice of the city superintendent; an inference drawn from its refusal to allow him seat and voice at its meetings. A board of directors of a private enterprise which should deny such courtesy to its responsible manager would appear in unfavorable light to the stockholders.

Terms of Peace.

PROPOS of the efforts which are being made by Presidents Kruger and Steyn to arrange a peace, the London correspondent of the New York Herald recently wrote in his paper: "I have had ample opportunities of judging the sentiment of the public at large as to what the terms of peace must be. All agree, from the crossing sweeper to the millionaire, that cost what it may of time, lives or money, no terms of peace can be granted which do not absolutely make another war like the present impossible; that England must be paramount, the Boers disarmed, and full freedom given to all whites alike. No conceivable government could survive a surrender to the Boer claim for recognition and independence, or accept anything short of unconditional surrender. On their part her majesty's advisers have never contemplated the possibility of what would be a repetition of the Majuba convention. If the Boers desire peace they can have it at any moment on the conditions which will guarantee perfect equality to all white men and complete protection of the native races against ill usage. The application of this policy will involve the complete disarmament of the Boers."

Unless Great Britain should wish, in the closing of the war, to confess to the falsity of the representations upon which she entered into the war, terms less than these naturally could not be considered. The published text of the correspondence which has passed between Lord Salisbury and the Afrikaner presidents shows that England's hand is not to be ploughed and that there is not to be another turning back. It must be remembered that the British claim from the outset has been that the Kruger government is an antiquated machinery of oppression and a disturbing influence upon the orderly development of South Africa, and that, being deaf to reform and moral suasion, it had at last to be reformed by force. The progress of the war has really justified this claim. The British commander-in-chief has repeatedly accused the Boer forces of conducting war with as scant regard to the accepted rules of civilization as it alleged they had conducted their political activities in time of peace; and the last word from him was personal testimony as to disrespect shown by the Boers to the flag of surrender and authoritative notice to Kruger and Steyn that repetition of this treachery would compel the British to modify their campaign into a war without quarter. The reputation of Lord Roberts is such that we cannot credit him with having trumped up this tale for political effect or of having entered complaint without intolerable provocation.

Lord Salisbury's letter makes plain the indefensible position assumed by the Orange Free State and puts where it clearly belongs the responsibility for the beginning of this war. War having been begun by the Boers, who invited its dread consequences rather than show fair play to the English-speaking people resident within their borders, it is entirely proper that they should abide the consequences until they are willing to accept the victor's terms. The course of our government in offering to be the intermediary in any correspondence which might aim toward the re-establishment of peace and in volunteering its good offices, within the limits of its ability as a friendly neutral, toward the facilitation of peace negotiations, accords with precedent, with policy and with the prevalent view of our moral duty. This proffer having been made, our duty for the present ends.

Reports still come to us of parents who unwisely permit children recently convalescent from scarlet fever to play with neighbors' children at great risk of spreading the contagion. A responsibility of this magnitude should not be taken except upon a physician's advice.

Canal Prospects.

IT IS REPORTED from Washington, and we hope with truth, that the senate prefers no action on the Hay-Pauncefote canal treaty to ratification of that convention as absurdly amended by the committee on foreign relations. It will be unfortunate if no action shall be taken looking to a removal of the embarrassments of the Clayton-Bulwer treaty; but it would be more unfortunate to go before the world as demanding a treaty which in the first four sections of the main article solemnly guarantees a canal absolutely neutral in war and peace and open on equal terms to the ships of all nations, yet which occupies a portion of the very next section with a clumsy effort to stipulate that this guarantee of neutrality and equal treatment will be violated by the United States without notice whenever it shall see fit to do so.

If the senate of the United States is not mentally big enough to appreciate the far-reaching advantages of

neutralization, let it say so frankly. Let it pass a resolution settling with the United States its attitude to build the Nicaragua canal regardless of existing obligations and to run that canal in every respect as it shall please. This will constitute fair notice to all mankind to accept our intention or fight. On such a platform of Ajax defiance the lightning the senate would at least be consistent. If it is not brave enough to face the logic of its own pretensions, let it do the next best thing and say nothing. This would mean that there will not be any Nicaragua canal until the people can make a few improvements in the personnel of the senate.

The slaughter of birds to meet the demands of the Easter bonnet trade has already been opened with renewed vigor in some of the Southern states. Notwithstanding the fact that many of the birds that adorn modern creations in millinery are made of chicken feathers colored to order, or of the skins of the golden pheasants bred for that purpose, thousands of smaller birds are slaughtered yearly to furnish adornment for bonnets. About the only member of the feathered tribe that escapes is the English sparrow who could best be spared. The crusaders in the interest of bird protection will need to redouble their efforts if they wish to save the American songsters from extinction.

Mr. Carnegie's lawyers apparently would wade through a whole library in search of the twenty thousands words used to define what might easily have been expressed: "Never touched me."

The Canadian who persuaded Sitting Bull to surrender to the United States eighteen years ago is still waiting for his pay. He now regrets that he did not deliver the goods C. O. D.

Alaska cost \$7,000,000 and has already, since its purchase, yielded in gold, fisheries and furs \$67,000,000 and its development has scarcely begun. Expansion pays.

The Wilkes-Barre Times compliments The Tribune for reproducing some of its editorials, and we assume that the omission of credit is simply accidental.

Next we will probably hear of some minister with an ambition to temporarily conduct the affairs of a base ball nine or theater.

The "good offices" of the United States government should also be enlisted to restore peace in Kentucky.

It cannot be denied that Rev. Mr. Sheldon has proved, temporarily at least, a good circulation manager.

The sultan of Turkey must feel lone some these days with not a single ultimatum to vary the monotony.

The Tariff Problem as to Puerto Rico

Editor of The Tribune— Sir: It seems to me that we are in great danger of doing an ill-considered and defensible act of injustice to this island, the only one of our islands and possessions which threw open its doors and hailed the advent of our flag with "Vive Americans, and not only our flag, but our country, and ourselves, are likely to establish a precedent that may become very uncomfortable in the future. As a matter of simple justice, fairness and decency, to those kind and gentle Puerto Ricans, who came to us so trustfully, out of the arms of their old oppressors to get the benefit of our benevolence, it does seem as though we should treat them as friends and not as aliens; should call them our brothers and not strangers. The project urged, viz. that by this means alone can a revenue be raised for the benefit of education and public improvements in the island, is much too thin. This is benevolence with a vengeance. It is taking the property of a few exporters or merchants, and distributing it over the whole island. Why didn't we apply this rule to Louisiana and Florida and California, when they became ours by purchase? They needed education and public improvements.

A tariff for revenue merely is unobjectionable and so also is a tariff for protection, both in their place. The Dingley tariff law is both. It protects along lines where American industry needs it. It is a tariff for revenue, pure and simple, where protection is not needed, or where the imports cannot be produced in this country. But the proposed law for Puerto Ricans is neither. It is a double edged knife and cuts him both ways. We compel him to bring his products to us at a charge, viz. that we consent to him to buy his supplies of us, and then charge him for doing this also. It is like saying to a farmer, you must bring your eggs to my store, but for the privilege I will deduct 15 per cent. of the value; now you must take your pay in my goods at my price, and for this boon I will deduct another 15 per cent. By that time the innocent farmer having paid 30 per cent. for the privilege of doing business at my store, will doubtless appreciate my benevolence, and this even though this money may be doled back to him to meet what I choose to think he needs in the way of public improvement.

So much for this side of the question. Now as to the legal aspects of the case, as affecting our territory. Littlefield, of Maine, gives expression to what I believe to be the law when he says such a tariff—or any tariffs against any of our possessions—is unconstitutional. The answer to this is that "the constitution does not extend itself to newly acquired territory, but can be applied to such only by act of congress." This, in my judgment, is very dangerous doctrine, and contrary to all precedent in our past history. What is the constitution? It is the organic law of the land, the charter which alone we exist and exercise the powers of a nation. It is the center and source of our national life, just as the charter of a private corporation is the center and source of its corporate life. The powers its charter confers it may exercise and none others. So with a constitution or charter of government, especially our own; its corporate life and powers must extend over its entire territory, otherwise there can be no governmental life or power there. If this principle is not true, what was the political status of Louisiana, which included most of the vast territory west of the Mississippi, immediately after it was purchased in 1817? What that of Florida? and California? The civil and criminal laws of the countries from which we purchased these territories ceased immediately on the completion of the purchase. Were they then without laws? In the interim between the date of purchase and the establishment of territorial government, will it be claimed that there was no power to protect life or property? or that crime could not be punished? If all anybody present at the moment the treaty of Paris was rat-

ified, and Puerto Rico and the Philippines came into our possession, that moment Spanish law having ceased, there ensued, in these new possessions a state of anarchy, in a condition without law. If so that condition still exists for congress has given them no government. The idea is absurd. The moment those islands belong to our possession, that moment they came under our law and by virtue thereof we proceeded to protect life and property. But what law, if not the constitution? We have no law and can have none except under our constitution. Even the military law temporarily established, is under and by virtue of the constitution.

A recent interview with an alleged member of the cabinet is now going the rounds. It is in which this officer attempts to justify the absurd position that the constitution does not extend itself to new territory, by arguing that if it would have done so, the territories in the early days, and that was what the Republican party came into existence to fight and overthrow. We have no law and can have none except under our constitution. Even the military law temporarily established, is under and by virtue of the constitution.

If it be held that the constitution does not reach newly acquired territory, many interesting if not complicated questions are likely to arise. Suppose some foreign power should, by a declaration of war against the persons or property of citizens of Hawaii or Puerto Rico if they are aliens and do not come under the provisions of the constitution, would they seek redress? They could not ask it, for they would be simply nobody—without any political status. We could not ask our own country to protect our constitution—we could not enforce it because they are not citizens of our nation. On the other hand, suppose citizens of Hawaii or Puerto Rico, committed some depredations upon the persons or property of some foreign power? That power demands reparation, where would it situate its claim? It could not situate it in either island, but it could situate it for themselves. The power seeking redress would probably knock the fallacy out of that position in short order, through modern explosives, and if we were foolish enough to assert it.

What is the power that is pushing the Republican party and the country with it (for it is in power now and must be held responsible) into this absurd position, contrary to the advice of the president, and to the protest of our Governor General Davis; contrary to the earnest entreaties of Commissioner Carroll; which no Puerto Rican is asking for, but which are crying out against it? This double edged tariff? It must be something above politics or statesmanship. Is it the "mild hand" of the president? It is not, for he is cracking the whip? This is suggested. Those at the front should pause. Such an act is very likely to be a "weather breeder."

Scranton, March 13.

PERSONALITIES.

Miss Ellen Terry delights in keeping anniversaries, and never forgets the birth and wedding days of any of her intimate friends.

The Duchess of Sutherland frequently attends meetings of Socialistic women's company with Miss Margaret MacMillan, a Socialistic lecturer.

Alfred Lagomies, Sweden and Norway, new minister of foreign affairs has been in the diplomatic service ever since he was 17 years old.

Miss Maymo Jester, a niece of Buffalo Bill, is said to be the only female press agent on the road. She left the newspaper business to go into this new field.

The committee of the Comedie Francaise has refused to receive the play of Francisque Sarcey and place it in its galleries on the ground that it is that of a mere critic.

P. F. Lanshing has been appointed minister of finance of Hawaii, to succeed S. M. Damon, whose resignation was sent from Rome, Italy. The appointment was made by President Dole.

Eugene Bode, who keeps a store in Fredericksburg, Va., was so pleased with the results of the election in Nebraska that, while his shop was under renovation to be painted a bright silver color.

Francois Chabas, to whom a beautiful monument has just been erected at Chalons-sur-Saone, was one of the great geologists of France, but never got nearer to Egypt than Italy.

Dr. Calvin Rae Smith, professor of drawing in the College of the City of New York, has made a specialty of collecting watch movements and has over 2,000 specimens and as many "bridges."

A major league had been arranged between the Hon. Frank Russell, son of the Lord Chief Justice of England, and Miss Mary Ritchie, daughter of the Right Hon. C. T. Ritchie, member of the Board of Trade.

John J. Johnson, who died in Fulvanna county, Va., the other day, was one of the litter-bearers who carried Stonewall Jackson from the field where the general was mortally wounded at Chancellorsville, May 2, 1862.

Richard Mansfield has an electric bell rung twice before the curtain goes up on an act, to notify the audience to stop their talking and concentrate their attention on the stage.

Professor R. Garner, the famous student of monkey language, is about to undertake another and much larger journey to Africa, which he predicts will be the most successful for his theory yet made.

The University of Michigan, following the example of several other institutions, has raised by vote of the Board of Regents, Charles Bond, former director of athletics, to the rank of a junior professor, with a salary of \$2,000.

In Woman's Realm

THE GREEN RIDGE Women's club seems to be responsible for bringing much talent to this city. It has already secured the presence of a number of distinguished people and it is rumored will have several others to make addresses in the near future. On Monday at 2.30 Mr. L. C. Holden, the famous architect of New York, will read a paper in the Green Ridge library. On the 25th Professor Wingate of New York, will address the Labor unions of this region by invitation of the Women's club and in April Mrs. Larned, the president of the National Economic association, will be in the city under the same auspices. Mr. Holden will probably be heard next week with the liveliest interest by the members of the club. The club has beautiful homes, the construction of which he has directed.

WOMEN WHO persistently hold to the opinion that a letter dropped in a post box is as much lost as if it were put in the fire and who insist upon that collection letters made at 2.30 p. m. before they are satisfied that the messages are safely started on their journey, are hard to convince that a letter put in a box in the evening will reach the office that night, consequently husbands, brothers and friends are constantly being bothered with letters to mail as they go down in the evening and many are the delays because of the over-coat pocket dead letter office. It will probably be some years before the average woman on the hill will be willing to trust to the post box a letter she wishes to get off in the evening, no matter how definitely the card or the postman station that collection letters made at 2.30 p. m. The fact is that an official in a little gig cart, which looks as if it were a section of a milk wagon unaccountably furnished with a camp stool, makes a hasty trip at 9 o'clock in the evening to all the boxes between Lackawanna avenue and Pine street and from Webster avenue to that of the postoffice. They say in New York that the gig cart is the death of the official who rides within it as the springless action soon joins him into paralysis. However that may be he has thus far been able to continue his service in this city since the regulation of night mail collection was put into effect. If you place your letter in a box in this district before 9 p. m. it is sure to reach the postoffice that night.

SAID IN FUN. Where He Acquired the Taste. "You appear to have a taste for horses." "Taste for horses! I rather guess I have. I was in Kimberley during the entire siege."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

A Brother Orator. "This is Mr. Dewey, isn't it?" "Yes, sir." The stranger grasped his hand and shook it cordially. "I'm somewhat in your line myself," he said. "I'm an auctioneer."—Chicago Tribune.

Gets an Early Start. She takes time by the forelock—All wisdom counsels that—And, clad in furs and winter frock, Picks out her new spring hat. —Chicago Ball.

Watchful. "I see Bankster has failed for \$5,000,000, with no assets." "He always was a great hand to take advantage of his opportunities."—Chicago Times-Herald.

Lovely Woman. Ankle—When does a woman demonstrate that she has a way of her own? "Toll—When she can't have her own way."—Baltimore American.

Retribution. The Boer stood on the rocky veldt And calmly swept the kope. "I never," said the Briton, "felt such a thing. Hey, there! Stomp!" "Oh, no," the wily Boer replied, "You have attacked my trek, And sought to steal my gold beside; What did you then expect?"—Philadelphia North American.

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RIPANS TABULES

Last fall I went to a doctor who was recommended to me as a good one and with quite a reputation. He gave me medicines for nearly six weeks, and I got no benefit that I could see. A friend of mine called one evening and told me he had been using

for a short time and had never found anything that helped his stomach and liver troubles as much as they did. He handed me a circular about them, which I read, and concluded that they were just what I needed and would fit my case exactly. I went over to the drug store and got a 50-cent box of them, out of which I took two a day for awhile, and within three days noticed and felt much improvement. That was about the middle of December. Last February I got another box of the Tablets and took part of them only, as I was feeling so much better that I didn't think I needed any more. I now feel no pain whatever in my stomach, liver and bowels acting and regular, and eat like a well man should eat.

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