

The Scranton Tribune

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When space will permit, the Tribune is always glad to print short letters from its friends bearing on current topics; but its rule is that these must be signed, for publication, by the writer's real name; and the condition precedent to acceptance is that all contributions shall be subject to editorial revision.

TEN PAGES.

SCRANTON, MARCH 15, 1900.

Criticism of the mayor for signing the electric light ordinance overlooks the practical fact that the vote in council clearly demonstrated the existence of more than a two-thirds majority in favor of the measure, which would have made a veto ineffectual and would simply have bred ill will between the legislative and the executive departments. The mayor's personal theories as to municipal legislation which stand between them and their enactment into law are quite another. For the latter he is not responsible.

Colonel Hitchcock Answered.

THE THEORY under which President McKinley is proceeding, to quote J. S. Tucker, of Washington, a correspondent of the New York Sun, "recognizes that the United States as a sovereign power has the right to legislate as it may deem best for the interests of its own citizens and for the welfare of the people who are not its citizens, but who have been transferred to its allegiance by the right of conquest and cession. It holds that the constitution of the United States does not extend to conquered or ceded territory as an incident of conquest or cession; but that congress, as representing the sovereignty of the country for legislative purposes, may govern these territories in its discretion, giving them such rights as they are fit to use and withholding such as they cannot intelligently exercise."

Colonel Hitchcock to the contrary notwithstanding, this is not a new theory but is in effect the theory which has controlled our past acquisitions of territory. In the case of the Louisiana purchase, our first and greatest experience in expansion, had during the life-time of many framers of the constitution, it had been expressly stipulated in the treaty of cession that the inhabitants of the ceded territory should be "incorporated in the Union of the United States and admitted as soon as possible, according to the principles of the Federal constitution, to the enjoyment of all rights, advantages and immunities of citizens of the United States," yet for ten years following the ratification of this treaty congress vested the government of the new domain in the hands of the president and during that time a tariff was in force at the port of New Orleans different from the tariff enforced at the port of New York. This could not have been the case had the constitution, as Colonel Hitchcock contends, immediately followed the flag.

In the treaty of Paris, by which we acquired Puerto Rico and the Philippines, no promise of statehood was made, but on the contrary our commissioners contented themselves with saying that "the civil rights and political status of the native inhabitants of the territory hereby ceded to the United States should be determined by congress." If the Democratic contention were correct, the words "by congress" in this treaty would have been unnecessary, inasmuch as the civil rights and political status of these native inhabitants would have been determined de facto, by the extension over them of the Federal constitution coincident with the uplifting of the American flag. Yet this treaty was ratified with the aid of Democratic votes and has the force of sovereign law.

The second paragraph of the third section of Article IV of the constitution gives congress unlimited power to deal with territory by saying that "The congress shall have power to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property of the United States." This grant of authority is absolute. It carries with it the power of alienation as well as the power of government of territory, as distinguished from the actual area of the several states, whose limits congress alone cannot change; and it assumes and pre-supposes, of course, the power to acquire territory. It is this clause in the constitution which clothes with full sovereignty the people of the United States otherwise there would be presented the strange spectacle of an inelastic government fenced within a certain fixed space and left derelict upon the ocean of circumstances, without power to fit itself to new conditions.

As to the immediate application of this theory of constitutional interpretation to the inhabitants of Puerto Rico, Colonel Hitchcock can hardly believe that it is as ungenerous as his letter in yesterday's issue would seem to indicate. In the words of Henry L. Stoddard, "let us see what it is actually proposed to do." Two bills have passed the house and are before the senate. One appropriates for the use and benefit of Puerto Rico the \$2,000,000 thus far collected under the Dingley law on her imports in this country. The second bill provides that only 15 per cent. of the tariff levied against imports from other countries shall be levied on Puerto Rican products; and that the same rate shall apply to our exports to Puerto Rico. After two years all duties cease. The revenue collected at our custom houses and in Puerto Rico is to be turned over to the island. In other words, existing duties are reduced 85 per cent., all revenue thus far collected and yet to be collected, is to be turned over to

the Puerto Ricans, they are to have unrestricted trade in two years, and not a dollar of internal revenue tax— which our own people feel rather heavily—is levied against them. The tax on business which the American people are paying as a consequence of the war fought for the sake of Cubans and Puerto Ricans is not extended to the island. Puerto Ricans pay no tax of any kind whatsoever for the support of their own government. This country pays it all, and continues to do so under the new law. It is even proposed by the senate to go further yet and collect no duty on the articles of necessity bought by Puerto Ricans of the United States, lest such duty might add to the selling price and thereby constitute a tax.

Is this cruel? Is it unfair? Does it deserve the criticism it has received or warrant from Republicans the insinuation that the party leaders in congress have sold out to the trusts?

The base ball club advertising bureau are making heroic efforts to divert the attention of the public from Rev. Mr. Sheldon's newspaper enterprises and the operations in the Transvaal; but with indifferent success.

Yellow Journalism.

IN CONNECTION with the New York Evening Journal, the Rev. Dr. Robert S. McArthur, one of the most accomplished and successful ministers of New York city, is editing daily a page of news and comment, "The Jesus would"—Dr. McArthur lays his absurd claim to special knowledge of what our Lord would do if He were to return to earth—but as he thinks, from the standpoint of a Christian minister, that a newspaper might properly be edited. The difference between this platform and that enunciated by Rev. Charles M. Sheldon is to Dr. McArthur's credit.

Among the topics discussed by Dr. McArthur in this Topeka Capital Express and his views impress us as being wise and timely. "Men," he writes, "have gravely asked: 'Would Jesus join a political club?' 'Would He be a member of the Republican or Democratic party?' It is possible greatly to multiply questions of this character. It is easy also to border on the ridiculous, the irreverent, even the blasphemous, in asking and answering questions of this character. The fact is, that all the circumstances of our material life differ so widely from those of Christ's time and country that it is impossible to say what He would do if He were here today. Indeed, it was impossible to anticipate what He would do in Judaea when He was on the earth. He constantly did many things which were the very opposite of those which He was expected to do. He accepted the invitation of a publican to dine at his house. This act shocked the conservative religionists of that day. He had words of welcome, encouragement and forgiveness for outcast men and women to whom the respectable classes of the time would not speak. He was a radical along many lines of social custom and of religious reform. To undertake to say what He would do now, were He here in the midst of the stirring events of our material life, is to be guilty of a presumption that is simply irreverent. The most that can be said is that man may suggest a course of procedure on His part, growing out of our knowledge of His life as revealed in Holy Scripture; but when men undertake to describe in detail what His course would be along all the lines of daily life, they are intruding into a sacred sphere, which is equally presumptuous and irreverent on their parts."

Righteous complaint exists among intelligent men and women at the phenomenon known as "yellow journalism," meaning thereby the journalism which panders to abnormal or morbid tastes by a reckless display of sensationalism. In details this kind of journalism differs, of course, very widely from the kind which Rev. Mr. Sheldon is exemplifying; but is there, after all, a large difference in principle? Is it not quite as abnormal and morbid to cater by unusual means to the curiosity of the multitude as he is doing as it is to cater to pretty much the same human instinct in the more familiar but not more sensational "yellow" style?

The reports tell us that while there is a large, in fact a most extraordinary demand for the Sheldon editions from curious people living at a distance from Topeka, the regular patrons of the paper are dissatisfied and are buying other papers which give the news of the day in the ordinary way. This is significant as to the fate which would probably overtake the Sheldon style of paper after the novelty of the idea should have worn off. That six months or a year of the Sheldon kind of journalism would land the Topeka Capital in the hands of the sheriff is a reasonable deduction. People do not want to be preached at or treated to assertive moralizing every day in the year.

Peace terms for a time will probably be a drug on the market.

Mr. Phelps on Arbitration.

IN A PRIVATE letter written three years ago to the editor of the New York Sun, the late Edward J. Phelps, whose experience as a diplomat and student of international affairs was widespread and considerable, expressed an opinion which is interesting in view of the subsequent failure of the czar's arbitration congress and also in view of the war now in progress in South Africa. "I do not believe," wrote Mr. Phelps, "that a general system of international arbitration is practicable, or would be desirable if it were, and I do not believe in international arbitration at all except in some rare cases where, imperfect as it is, it may nevertheless be useful and possibly necessary. These new and sudden fads in the public mind are usually of short duration. We know far too little about international law in this country to become the pioneers in new discoveries; and when we attempt it we shall be likely to find that the means by which the affairs of nations have been conducted for many centuries are not likely to be improved by the new wisdom of those

who know very little about the subject. Sound and able diplomacy is now, as it always has been and always must be, the only means by which questions between nations can be adjusted, when they can be adjusted at all. If our diplomacy is weak, as it will be so long as our agents are only temporary makeshifts, we should strengthen and improve the system, rather than try to discover substitutes for it that are likely to prove as impossible as perpetual motion or the philosopher's stone."

It is possible that Mr. Cleveland's minister to England was deficient in hopefulness upon this point; it is possible that had he revised his letter in the light of the progress made at The Hague conference toward an organized plan of international arbitration, he might have adopted a more encouraging tone. But his letter reveals a practical grasp on the true secret of improvement in international relations, as in most other human affairs; and that is the getting of good manhood to think out of new systems of reform which do not include betterment of the human factors upon which all systems depend for successful results. This is a truth which "cannot be over-emphasized."

The problem of taxation is now the big bone of contention in Cuba. One faction wants to put a revenue tax on sugar and tobacco, and the other faction opposes the proposition on the ground that tobacco and sugar are the foundations of the island's prosperity; that upon planters have fallen the heavy burdens of the insurrection period and of the period following; and that it would be most unwise to put any hindrance in the way of the island's agricultural development. The argument of the "antis" seems to be well considered.

To Learn Through Experience.

UNDER THE new currency bill a great many new national banks will be organized by virtue of the provision permitting the organization in small towns of national banks with \$25,000 capital. It is estimated that not less than 2,000 of these small banks will come into existence immediately, thus introducing many hundred thousands of persons to banking facilities who have not hitherto understood them and who have been somewhat inclined to look upon the average banker as a Shylock with horns. These residents of small villages, mostly in the west, will soon learn by personal observation and experience that a national bank, instead of being a cunning contrivance of the money power for the oppression of the sons of toil, is as truly a public convenience as is the village postoffice or the village drug store; and when this lesson has been impressed upon their minds by an actual acquaintance with banking methods, even if only by the occasional cashing of a check, the soil in which most of the free silver and greenback heresies of the past have been planted will no longer exist; and the opportunities for mischief of tongue demagogues like Colonel Bryan will be correspondingly curtailed. There is no school like experience.

Editor Ben Haines, of the Wayne Independent, one of the original anti-Quay men of this section, goes about his work in a rather half-hearted manner this spring. It may be that Br'er Haines is ashamed of some of the company in which he has been forced to travel lately.

As compared with the year preceding, imports into Hawaii last year increased nearly \$7,500,000 or over 20 per cent., and her exports increased \$5,200,000, or more than 20 per cent. The American flag is an unequalled trade tonic.

It is not probable that the spasmodic attack upon immorality in New York will be lasting. Gotham possesses too much material always in fit condition to succumb to the ravages of the germs of vice.

Mr. Frick will probably experience considerable difficulty in convincing either the courts or the public that he made Mr. Carnegie in a business way.

Count Castellane and the editor of Figaro appear to have agreed upon terms of peace without foreign intervention.

THE MODERN NEWSPAPER.

From an Address by Colonel George Nox McCall, Delivered Recently Before the Pittsburg Press Club.

The times have given birth to some hypercritical individuals whose specialty is decrying the aims and tendencies of the modern newspaper. They fall to note that the functions of legitimate journalism are growing broader every year; that expansion is the order of the day in newspapers as it is in government. They complain that newspapers are mercenary; that they are run as money-making enterprises. But have you observed that the editors do not invest themselves for their health or recreation, or for the benefit of their first wife's relations? The newspaper is a money-making enterprise, and when it ceases to be that it ceases to be a newspaper. It is pre-eminently the business in which the owners and managers take the public into their confidence; treat it as a partner, consult it, listen to its complaints and protests, respect its whims and eccentricities, and give it greater return for its limited investment than any other business under the stars.

A properly conducted newspaper is a daily bargain counter to its readers. It is an epitome of contemporary history, the concentrated news of the universe, the handiwork of a thousand men purchased for two cents or a penny. The purchaser of a copy is not in the least hindered by the fact that the value of the world's voice, and all for the value of a world's voice.

THE SHELDON EXPLOIT.

From the Indianapolis Press. The experiment will doubtless multiply the receipts and increase the profits of the publisher for one week, but it is not likely to increase the fame of the preacher or permanently improve the moral tone and character of newspapers. As an advertisement for the Transvaal, the best efforts of Phineas T. Barnum in exploiting his great moral exhibition, except that it is more irreverent.

Outline Studies of Human Nature

Congressman Smith and His Pile. REPRESENTATIVE H. C. SMITH, of Indiana, is making more friends on the floor of his house than 30 per cent. of the new congressmen. He is a tireless worker.

"Where is Smith? asked a Michigan man, one of the door keepers the other day. "At his desk working," was the reply. "Smith is always working."

The latter remark literally true, but the congressman from the second Michigan district does not waste much time listening to perfunctory debate. He is too busy.

Mr. Smith has made an impression on the waters of the house café by his wit, and they "spot" him whenever he enters the popular place. His easy relations with the dusky waiters came about thus:

The congressman was at luncheon during the busy hour and sat waiting for his dessert, the tardiness of which was due more to the arduous duties of the waiter than to inactivity or laziness. Smith related his plea in anticipation until it began to get stale, and then called another waiter and in all seriousness said: "Man, will you go and see if the waiter who took my order waits here yet?"

The waiter looked at him seriously for a moment and retreated to the kitchen with a broad grin. Smith's original waiter appeared at once, not much changed by age, and with him appeared at the door a group of his fellow-men, all smiling and eyeing the man from Michigan who could stir up a waiter without swearing at him.—Adrian Times.

A Son of Kentucky.

A TALL SON of Kentucky, who had imbibed too much whisky, of the peculiar vigour of his native state, drifted into the Columbia last week and secured a retired and peaceful seat in the rear of the balcony, where he tranquilly dropped to sleep, says the Cincinnati Enquirer. He disturbed no one, and nobody paid any attention to him until he awoke and eyed the man from Michigan who could stir up a waiter without swearing at him.—Adrian Times.

A Left-Handed Compliment.

BISHOP LAWRENCE, of Massachusetts, the successor of the late Dr. Phillips Brooks, tells this little joke upon himself with keen relish: "It was at the time when there was a vacancy in the bishopric, and Dr. Brooks was the most prominent candidate. Mr. Lawrence, then dean of the theological school in Cambridge, was walking with President Eliot, of Harvard university, and the two were discussing the situation. "Don't you hope Brooks was elected?" asked the dean. "No," said Eliot, "a second or third rate man would do just as well, and we need Brooks in Boston and Cambridge."

Was Talking in Canada.

FREDERICK D. KILBURN, state superintendent of banking, made a campaign speech last fall that was for Governor Roosevelt a record breaker, says the New York World. Kilburn, the colonel and other spellbinders were touring the extreme northern part of the state. Early one morning the engine stopped for water near a lumber camp. Kilburn got out on the end of the car and delivered a rip-roaring speech on the evils of Tammany Hall and the kindred campaign topics. The lumbermen listened with no show of enthusiasm.

A trifled nettled, Kilburn returned to the camp, a fireman noticing his gloom, said cheerfully: "Don't mind those French-Canadians. They're a wooden-headed lot. They'll never understand you, Kilburn, with surprise: 'Where are we?' "We're just over the line in Canada. I thought you knew that," said the brakeman.

An Ideal Rudely Displeased.

WHILE Wm. M. Everts was a member of the senate, says Harper's Weekly, an employe, hastening late one afternoon through one of the upper corridors, was accosted by a stranger, evidently a farmer, with the query: "Can you tell me where I can see Senator Everts? I have admired him all my life, and I have never seen him. Will you tell me where I have come to Washington to see him more than anything else. I don't want to speak to him; just to look at him."

The employe took him into the senate gallery and sat down with him. Everts was not on the floor, but in a few minutes he strolled in and stepped up the stairs leading to the vice president's box, so that all his diminitiveness and slenderness was in evidence.

"There he is," said the employe. "That little fellow?" Then he looked long and earnestly at him, and turning to his companion said, "Gosh! I bet he boards."

A Statement That Meant Much.

A STORY is told illustrative of the attitude of the Chinese minister at Washington, Mr. Wu, says the New York Post. At a recent dinner the minister told himself in company with William J. Bryan. When he began to talk, he said he felt entirely safe about the utterances being treated as confidential. Nevertheless, he thought that he had better be discreet because there was a gentleman present who, he understood, might occupy the white house some time, and the minister was in a position to hand him his passports if he said something distasteful.

"However," continued the minister, "with the greatest care which I can use, I shall have to leave Washington before he is president."

The Lad Was Astonished.

THE TENDENCY of most doctrines is to be very narrow, and the loyalty for a particular church is "bred in the bone," says the Memphis Scimitar, as a certain little Memphis boy bears witness. His mother was telling him of the childhood of Christ, and in the course of her story said that Christ was a Jew. The little fellow looked up at her in wide-eyed astonishment, and said in an awed voice: "Why, mother, I always thought that the Lord was a Presbyterian."

A Sule That Worked Both Ways.

A COMMERCIAL traveler who was detained the other night at a little way station, where a junction had come into the waiting room, and was enjoying a cigar, when a porter entered, reading the Cardiff Western Mail. The traveler,

pointing to a printed notice overhead, "Smoking is Strictly Prohibited," remarked indignantly: "I suppose this rule is not strictly enforced?" "Oh, no, sir," was the confidential response; "nor the one underneath." The commercial looked where the porter pointed, and read: "Railway Servants Are Not Allowed to Receive Gratuities."

A Long Time for a Light Lunch.

ONE OF THE correspondents was trying to get the office of Assistant Postmaster General Perry Heath on the telephone, says the Chicago Journal. After some wrestling he got a reply. "Hello!" he demanded, "is this Mr. Heath?" "Now! I wish it was," came the answer in tones of disgust. "This happens to be a poor bloater who wants to know why the government pays a man \$4,000 a year to keep a man waiting two hours while he eats a light lunch. If you can answer that question I will tell central not to ring off."

The next day the correspondent found that the speaker was Representative Charles B. Landis.

NUBS OF KNOWLEDGE.

As many as 4,000 darts have been found in a single palm.

To be perfectly proportioned a man should weigh twenty-eight pounds for every foot of his height.

In 1850 there were 71,000 tons of steel made in the world. In 1888 the United States alone made 4,000,000 tons. The largest cargo of breadstuffs ever put afloat for the Orient was cleared at Portland, Ore., in the Arab, which held the equivalent of 23,771 bushels of wheat, valued at \$160,000.

Baldwin City, Kan., is the seat of a Methodist college. Cards cannot be bought in the town; there is no place which billiards may be played, and two attempts to hold a dance have failed.

Each battalion chief of the New York fire department is shortly to be supplied with a pocket telephone, which may be affixed to any fire box, and will then enable the operator to talk directly with headquarters.

There was recently put in the Baldwin Locomotive works a crane which has a span of 153 feet. It will lift a 190,000-pound locomotive forty feet in the air, carry it 225 feet and set it down again in 3 minutes and 26 seconds.

The efficiency of the serum treatment of diphtheria has again been demonstrated in Austria, where the mortality, in cases so treated last year, was only 15.80 per cent., while of those treated without serum 39.30 per cent. died.

In 1891 10,415 cabin and 20,732 steerage passengers landed at the port of New York. One line brought 19,709 cabin passengers and 33,446 steerage passengers in twenty-nine trips, while another line brought 19,045 cabin passengers and 30,553 steerage passengers in sixty-two trips.

An attempt is to be made to popularize Chilean wine in Europe. A committee in co-operation with English and Scotch firms, with the object of first making a market for the product in Great Britain.

The Taguaguay river, is the longest river in Natal, being over 200 miles long, attaining a breadth at its mouth of 450 feet. For the last sixty miles or so of its course it forms the boundary line between Natal and Zululand, the latter being now a province of Natal.

Some people make it a point never to retire without a light burning in the house. A bit of information worth knowing is that a small even light may be obtained from a small piece of candle all night if fine powdered salt is piled around the candle until the black part of the wick is reached.

SEASONABLE.

Signs are swinging, shutters creaking. From the dust there's no defense. Women's skirts fly taut as wind-sails. Ankles are in evidence.

Midst the ruff-raff of the gutters, Derby hats are playing hoop. Maddegen men are chasing after. With a yell, and dodge, and swoop.

Now at sixes and at sevens Is the trusted weather-vane; North, south, east, it spins demented. West it veers, then back again.

Something's queer about the weather, Let's consult the almanac— By the power of winds and cyclones, March, that beastly month, is back.—Life.

OFFICE FURNITURE



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Our assortment has never been as large, nor the styles so attractive as now; two conditions which are not likely to exist as the season advances. We make special mention of

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Exclusive styles shown in most of the above.

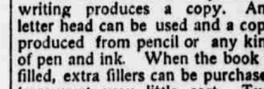
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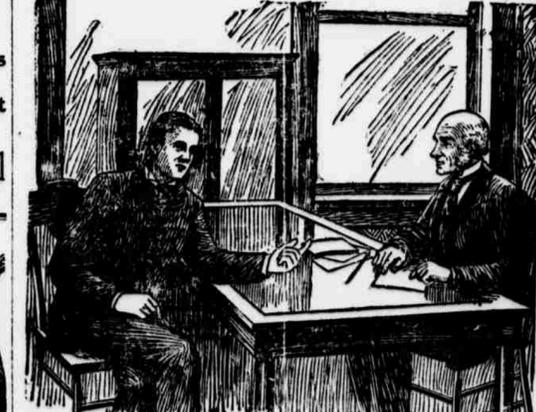
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With this book the simple act of writing produces a copy. Any letter head can be used and a copy produced from pencil or any kind of pen and ink. When the book is filled, extra fillers can be purchased from us at very little cost. Two sizes and bindings in stock.

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I have a friend, in fact he is my brother-in-law, who is the outside man for a New York crockery warehouse, a sort of salesman, purchasing agent, collector and what not. He used to suffer from a catarrh of the stomach. When he woke in the morning there would be a gripping, a contraction, a tightness of the stomach, which, he said, seemed to be clogged with a slimy, phlegm-like substance. Carlsbad salts always did him some good, but now he uses a Ripans Tabule. He only takes one when occasion requires, just one now and then. When this man, his name is Spalding, was asked to describe the effect of the Tabule on him, he said: "Why, it brightens me up. It has an effect like dry air; makes me feel something as if used to of a spring morning when the air was crisp but tempered with sunshine. I don't know how they produce such an effect, but that is the way they work with me."