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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, MARCH 16, 1900.

President Kruger's announcement that the Boers will fight until the last drop of blood has been spilled will doubtless be received with plesaure by the British. The talk about spilling the last drop of blood is usually the first step in the way of complete sur-

The Reasons Why.

ROM A SOURCE thoroughly informed as to all the facts, The Tribune has received a statement of the considerations which led the administration and the Republican leaders in congress to substitute in place of the original free trade recommendation the measure which recently passed the house in reference to Puerto Rico. We give below its purport:

In the original consideration of the Puerto Rican bill not sufficient attention was paid to the necessity of revenue and the method of raising it. The report of General Davis, governor general of the island, shows an estimated expenditure for the current fiscal year of \$1.943,678.71, and estimated receipts of \$2,360,842.97. But of these resources \$1,357,841 comes from customs duties and \$450,000 as a balance from last year. The actual income from internal sources is less than \$500,000. It thus becomes clear that until the island government is so established that it can provide a larger income there must be revenue from tariff or else a deficit to be met directly from the United States treasury. Recourse to the latter plan of paying the island's political expenses meant a pauper relationship as offensive to the island's self-respect as it would be vicious in principle and dangerous as an established precedent.

Of course the Republican contention on the constitutional issue would be sustained by distinct legislation specifically extending the constitution to Puerto Rico, as proposed in the Davis ing practically with the question in congress it was found, first, that large elements were opposed to free trade, including tobacco growers and especially the cigarmakers and all affiliated labor organization, and, also-not the sugar trust, which was interested in free trade- but the beet sugar growers of the country, a rapidly increasing and worthy class of farmers; and it was felt to be unsafe as well as unfair wholly to disregard these elements could be respected. In the second place, as already indicated, the revenue feature came into play as more important than was first believed to be the case. Thus it became necessary to compromise and harmonize conflicting interests, and the way adopted seemed at the time, and still seems, to be the best way in the light of all the facts. The details may yet be changed in the senate, but the hope is entertained by the administration that an agreement will be reached which will preserve the substantial points of the

So far from being an injustice to the Puerto Ricans, the measure which passed the house is in fact treatment more generous than was ever before accorded to the inhabitants of newly acquired territory. The immediate granting of complete free trade would. for the reasons stated above, be less kind in practical effect, since it would compel the levying of onerous direct taxation or attach the island as a direct charge upon the bounty of the United States treasury.

Many contend that the Hague conference has been a failure. Come to think of it, peaceful results have not materialized quite as rapidly as was expected.

An Exquisite Diplomatist.

HINA'S MINISTER to this country, Mr. Wu Ting Fang, is certainly a star. Our readers will remember the profoundly philosophic address he delivered before the University of Pennsylvania on Washington's birthday. Now here he comes with a bouquet of witticisms subtle and keen as the best effusions of our own Chauncey Depew. At the banquet given the other evening by the Tea Trade association of New York to the United States Board of Tea Experts, Mr. Wu was the principal speaker, and these, according to the papers, are some of the things he

"China is the first country and the oldest country to produce tea. I think the statistics don't show that the imports of tea into this country are as large as they ought to be, considering the size of your nation. One reason, I believe, is because of the inferior quality of the tea imported. Hence the board which you entertain tonight. If all your importations of teas were of equally high quality there would need to be no tea experts and you wouldn't need to be at the expense of banquetthing these gentlemen (laughter), and I wouldn't have the pleasure of meeting them. On your board there are no tea growers, I suppose. Why wouldn't it be fair to put a Chinese tes producer on the board? He would know how real tea is prepared; he would be the real expert from the beginning. I know the gentlemen on this board are henerable gentlemen, but they are but human (Vells of laughter).

"I don't want to insinuate anything simister, I continued Mr. Wu, looking middly surprised and almost preternaturally innocent. "It isn't that. But in the interests of the trade I think has misjudged even the state of eKn-

you should have a fea producer. have had complaint from tea growers that the examiners at San Francisco were too strict; that their strictness was the result of lack of experience. They didn't understand the difficulties of the tea-grower. Now I regard tea as a boon to mankind. It cheers, but does not inebriate. But it stirred you Americans up to the struggle that resulted in your independence when the British took it to Boston; so you owe

a great debt to China. "In this country you have what you call ten parties. There is little ten at them. Coffee and other drinks there are (laughter), but no good tea. Your board of experts should see to it that tea is served at tea parties (laughter). You don't know how to make tea here. You put lemon in it; you put sugar and cream in it and spoil the taste. You don't take it neat and clean. And then you complain that the tea isn't the right quality. If you took your tea as we do in China, you'd get higher quality in it. Is it reasonable to impose a tax on tea? A couple of years ago there was a necessity for it; but now that is over and the sooner that tax is taken off the better."

The Chinese minister is certainly earning his pay.

The threat by Montagu White that the Boers, if driven to cover, will blow up Johannesburg and destroy the hundreds of million dollars' worth of property located in or near that city is probably made as a bluff. Its execution would invite such reprisals on the part of the invading force as would cause even stubborn old "Oom Paul" to waver in his suicidal resolutions

The Consular Service.

N CONNECTION with the bill to reorganize the consular service of the United States, which is now before congress, Representative Adams, of Philadelphia, has made a report worthy of public attention. The bill abolishes the fee system of compensation, does away with all consular and commercial agencies places all consuls on a salary footing and requires that the fees which they charge shall be turned into the United States treasury.

As showing the inequalities of the present arrangement, the report presents a number of interesting comparisons. For example, the consul at Montevideo, Uruguay, is paid \$3,000 salary, and receives officials fees amounting to \$922. The consul at Stettin, Germany, has a salary of \$1,000; his fees are \$1.192, showing that the amount of business at his consulate is in excess of that at Montevideo. Our consul at Demerara, British Gulana, gets \$3,000, and his fees are only \$637. At Leipsic the salary is \$2,000, the fees amendment, but when it came to dea!- \$5,518. At ... uremberg, Germany, with 160,000 population, the salary is \$3,000. At Munich, capital of Bavaria, with 405,000 population, the salary is \$2,000. The bill and the report demand higher salaries and better service. The consul at Para, Brazil, risks his life in the danger from fever for \$2,000 a year. So, too, at Santos, Brazil, where vellow fever and the bubonic plague have killed over one-tenth the population. consuls must be kept at these places, however, as our imports of rubber and coffee from them exceed \$12,000,000 year.

The readjustment of salaries is no the only step which needs to be taken to insure a first class consular service There should, in the first place, be a rigid standard of qualification for entrance into this service and, once in, the young man who by special training prepares himself for the consular career should have the assurance of permanency of tenure during the period of his usefulness, with the chance to earn promotion by merit and the prospect of ultimate retirement on reduced pay after a certain age, as in the army and navy. The advisability of a special government school for the training of consular servants, similar in principle to the military academy at West Point or the naval academy at Annapolis, may not be so clear as is the advisability of the other improvements suggested, especially in view of the effort which some of our leading universities are making to provide special courses of instruction designed to supply this educational need; but if a federal preparatory school be deemed unnecessary there should at least be provision made for special opportunities of study and training for young men who have won admission to the consular service in the lower grades.

The time has gone by when the United States could afford to select its foreign representatives by the uncertain rule of "pull" alone.

It has been announced with a flourish of trumpets that the gold Democrats are dissatisfied with the Mc Kinley administration. As the news is accompanied by the usual denunciation of the 16 to 1 policy, it is doubtful if the followers of Mr. Bryan will be able to secure crumbs of comfort from the statement.

Opportune Optimism.

HE EPISODES of violence, the consummated plots of political robbery and outrageous abuse of justice; the exhibitions by some of the people of Kentucky of eager surrender to the lowest passions that can degrade popular government so far sicken the sensitive onlooker that there is need of the vigorous antidote supplied by Congressman Dolliver, of Iowa, in his recent speech in congress. Said this master of wit, humor and

My friend from Missouri [Mr. Clark has said on this floor that the United States is not lit to go anywhere or to States is not lit to go anywhere or to undertake any duty. He stood here for a long time explaining the weak points about the United States. He attacked Pennsylvania, he attacked Illinois, and many of the Southern states; but he saved the viais of his polite wrath for the state in which he was born, the old commonwealth of Kentucky. He pointed out the miseries of their present code. ed out the miseries of their present con-dition, the strife of parties and fac-tions, and used that state to demon-strate that the American people are unit for any high mission in the world in the

tucky. I think that I have as decided convictions about the rottenness in Denmark of Kentucky politics as my friend from Missouri can possibly have; but in all my reflection about the condition of society there I have never thought to measure its moral value by its crimes and its failures and its misfortunes. I prefer to reckon up the countless homes all over that state where humble men all over that state where numble men and women, sound at heart, are daily de-ing their duty in the world. When I think of Kentucky I do not have in mind the ruffian and the outlaw or the election machinery that brings to the front the thieves of one party and as-sassins of the ohter. I think of the homestead where Henry Clay lived and nomestead where Henry Clay lived and

of the log hut in which Abraham Lincoin was born. [Loud applause.] And so, when I think of our great coun-try. I do not measure its moral possi-bilities at the level of its vices and its crimes; these do not make up the character of our country. I think of 70,000,00 people living in peace and contentment, doing the sober work of life, exemplifying the homely domestic virtues, and bringing up a race of God-fearing men and women who are to make the world better for their living in it. It is these that make up the moral estate of the na-tion and that fit the American Republic for the nobler work that has been given

This reassuring optimism is very timely. It is needed to prevent the foul spectacle today presented in Kentucky from swelling the ranks of the pessimists and influencing a class of timid citizens to withdraw still further from active and wholesome participation in the hurly burly of American polities.

Nearly every one has made answer in the Carnegie case now except the man who shot at Mr. Frick some time ago at Homstead.

TOLD BY THE STARS. Daily Horoscope Drawn by Ajacchus, The Tribune Astrologer.

(3) A child bern on this day will notice that it makes quite a difference whether fortune smiles on you or laughs at you. Ill will is something that always re Time will soon decide whether Scran

on is to have a building boom or a base

There is sometimes profit in being crank if one is well advertised. All things come to him who waits-ex Ajacchus' Advice.

your motives to those who are not your friends. It is not worth while trying to explain

A large portion of our success in life depends upon the impression we make upon others.

Outline Studies of Human Nature

Why She Was Naughty.

ARLINE HARDINE, the younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Hardine, is a very quiet person, but she has a philosophical and deeply inquiring mind. Also, she is especially attracted to all subjects of religion.

One day, when she was 4 years old, she inquired of her father concerning the personality of the devil. She had never been taught anything of his satanic maesty by her mother, and certain information from outside quarters came as news to her. Her father, being possessed by a spirit of mischief, wickedness or orthodoxy, gave Arline a straight, ortho-dox description of Lucifer—tail, cloven hoofs, sulphurous smell and all-and fin-shed with the remark: "You'd better Arline listened, made inwardly digested.

For the next week the region where Satan is supposed to live was to pay in the house. Arline told "taradiddies" like anything. She deliberately cribbed things. There was no let up. Finally Saturday night came, and Arline's mother sat in tears. She had labored with her daughter with voice, prayer and slipper, and Arline lay unrepentant on a bed in the next room. To her came her father.
"Arline," said he, "what's the meaning
of this? What has come over you this
week to turn the house upside down and drive your mother nearly distracted?

What do you mean by it?"

Arline whimpered, "Well, papa," she sniveled, plaintively, "I've whole week to see the devil, and haven't seen him once." Orthodoxy is now inspected before is taught to Arline.—Denver News.

Faith and Works Hand in Hand.

**[TELL, YOU," said a commercial trav-eler to a Tribune reporter the other day, "I never heard the old Scriptural doctrine that 'faith without works is dead' illustrated so convincingly as I did leans, and was sitting among a circle of well-to-do planters who were telling sto ries of negro life. One of them said: 'Not long after glavery was abolished an old darkey who had been my father's body servant since they were boys "got

religion." but his ideas about it were extremely hazy. As Christmas ap-proached his family clamored for a tur-So he prayed earnestly for one, say-"O Lord, send a turkey to this poor but no turkey came. Day after day he kept up this petition, without bringing the coveted prize any nearer. Then on the morning before Christmas he changed the wording of his prayer to "O Lord, send this poor sinner to a turkey," and about midnight his prayer was

The Court Committed Itself. THE PRISONER was making his ap-pearance before the magistrate for

inswered."-New York Tribune

"Well," said the magistrate, "you here "Yes, your honor," responded the pris-

er. "What's the charge?" "Vagrancy - same as before, "It seems to me you are here about

half your time."

"Yes, about that, your honor."

"Well, what do you do it for? Why
don't you work?"

"I do, your honor, more than half of

my time. "Ah. now," said the magistrate, sur-prised, "if you can tell me where you have ever worked Fil let you off." "In prison, your honor," answered the prisoner brazenly, and the judge kept his word .- Collier's Weekly.

His Self-Sacrifice.

Two Little boys were at their evening devotions. With great fervor, the
devout elder brother prayed that he
might be made a good boy, With equal
earnestness, wee Robert prayed that
Charles might be made a better boy. On
his herrifled mother's inquiry why he did
not pray for himself, he responded:
"Well, I can take care of myself, but "Well, I can take care of myself, but Charles is bigger 'n me."—Indianapolis

What Worried Him.

AN OLD IRISH laborer walked into the days ago and asked for money to obtain a meal. He explained that he had just been discharged from the county hospital and was too weak to work. He was given a triffe and departed.

One of four young ladies, art students, who were present, said: "Mr. Blank, can't we engage that old man and sketch him?"

said: "If you can't work and want to make a few shillings, come back to my rooms. The young ladies want to paint

you."
The Irishman hesitated, so Blank remarked: "It won't take long, and it's an easy way to make a snug sum."
"Ol know that," was the reply, "but Ol was a wunderin' how Ol'd git th' paint off afterward."—Tit-Bits.

Earnings Versus Salary.

Earnings Versus Salary.

64T HERB 18 IN the employ of our house," says a Philadelphia salesman, "a young man who is assistant bookkeeper. He's a steady chap, minds his own business, and is as shrewd as they make them. The other day the senior partner of the firm, who seldom comes around, made a tour of inspection, and as he approached the assistant bookkeeper he noticed the solemn expression in his face. Desiring to be congenial he said:

"'How are you, young man? I see you are at your work. That is good. Close attention to business will always bring its own reward. Tell me, what are you careling new area." earning now a week?"
"The young man, with a moment's hesitation, answered: "Twenty dollars, sir, but I only get half of that."—New

At a Disadvantage.

A NORTH COLUMBUS woman has a charming little daughter who is very indiscreet. The other day in the midst of a reception the little girl cried on account of the toothache. Her mother tried "How will it go away?" replied little Edith, her voice broken with sobs. "I can't take my teeth out like you can, mamma."--Ohio State Journal.

A PROTEST.

Editor of The Tribune-

Sir: It seems to me that your editorial, "Concerning Editor Sheldon," in the Wednesday issue of The Tribune, calls for a protest from every follower of Christ to whose notice it comes. Those who have become acquainted with Mr. Sheldon through his books know that the article in question grossly misrepresents him, and in addition it characterizes as "irreverent" that which is at the foundation of all practical Christian living Certainly no Christian should consider "irreverent" in Mr. Sheldon, an attempt to apply to the problems of his life the teachings of Christ, or to live to the best of his prayer-guided judgment as Christ would in his place. As the Bible clearly teaches, this is not only the privilege but the duty of every true Christian.

Mr. Sheldon assumes to do no more than this. He does not arrogantly claim for himself special revelations from the divinity, nor does he place himself above ordinary beings as a "special and unique medium of communication between the finite and the infinite." He is simply a humble follower of Christ conscientiously endeavoring to live as he believes Christ would have him. In this he is, of course, directed by his human judgment for which he has, like every other true Christian, asked divine guidance.
It is my belief that a careful reading

of Mr. Sheldon's book "In His Steps," will show you clearly his true position and enable you to avoid in the future an article so misleading as the one which has led to the writing of this letter. Yours truly.
-H. W. Beach.

Montrose, March 14.

NUBS OF KNOWLEDGE.

In Paris there is a wineshop for every hree houses. New York state has 120,000 more bache

ors than spinsters.
The height of the atmosphere is supposed to be about fifty miles. Queen Victoria has not worn her crown twenty times during her entire reign. The Paris Opera House, the largest the ater in the world, covers three acres. The London and Northwestern Railroad company issues yearly fifty tons of rail-

way tickets.
Of the 34,000,000 people in South America A Chicago professor figures it out that

ndated by Lake Michigan At Harlem, Holland, there are 125 acre evoted to the growth of hyaciaths, which bring in a revenue of \$150,000 It is estimated that greater quantities of gold and silver have been sunk in the sea than are now in circulation on earth. Dispensing tea during divine service on Sunday afternoons is being seriously dis-cussed in dissenting circles at Sydney,

N. S. W. In the first nine months of 1899 Ger-many sent to England 11,762 bicycles; to Australia, 2,800; and to British East Indies, 1,452.

dies, 1,452. Over 2,000,000 bottles, of the value of £7,000, are recovered each year from the dust-yards in London and returned to A dredgeboat of American design built for Russia has surprised Europe by re-moving 1,800 yards an hour, instead of the

moving 1,800 yards an hour, instead of the 1,800 contracted for.

Work of boring a tunnel through the tunnel of the Chilkoot Pass has begun. It will be the passage way of a thirty-seven mile electric road.

The total paid for college education in this country is about \$100,000,000 annually, a sum nearly equal to the entire civil expenditure of the government.

In the past ten years the production of wheat has increased 54 per cent, in the south, and the number of hogs raised. south, and the number of hogs raised there has, during that period, nearly dou-

There are 6,750,000 volumes in the li braries of American colleges and univer sities. Harvard has 500,000 volumes, Chi-cago University 250,000, Columbia 275,000, and Cornell 225,000. It is proposed to hold a congress of all street rallway and tramway companies

in the world under the auspices of the Universal Exposition authorities in Paris in September of the present year.

Bigamists in Hungary are compelled to submit to a queer punishment. The man who has been foolish enough to marry two wives is obliged by law to live with both of them in the same house. Young Cornelius Vanderbilt's invention Young Cornelius Vanderbilt's invention of a locomotive fire box is a great suc-cess, and the New York Central has adouted it. Mr. Vanderbilt is now at work on an improvement on freight cars. Californians are beginning to cultivate the tomato tree, which bears clusters of a delicious fruit, thousands of boxes of which are sent yearly from Ceylon to London, and for which it is believed a good market could be found in our east-

ern states.
The birth rate in the United States is gradually decreasing, this diminution be-ing due to both the white and black races. For the last 100 years this deci-mal loss is recorded as having gone on. Official figures show that increase for our total population was 30.08 per cent. from 1870 to 1880, 24 per cent. from 1880 to 1890, while it is believed that this decade will only show an increase of 18.94 per cent.

A PRAYER.

Lord grant us eyes to see and ears to hear And souls to love and minds to understand And steadfast faces toward the Holy Land.
And confidence of hope, and filial fear,

And citizenship where Thy saints appear Before Thee, heart in heart and hand in hand, And allelulahs where their chanting band As waters and as thunders fill, the sphere. Lord, grant us what Thou wilt, and what Thou wilt Deny, and fold us in Thy peaceful fold; Not as the world gives, give us Thine

own; t Unbuild us where Jerusalem is built. With walls of pasper and with streets of gold.

And Thou Thyself, Lord Christ, for cor-

-Christian Rosetti.

00000000000000000 In Woman's Realm 000000000000000

A MONG THE newer books, "A Double Thread" (Appleton), by Ellen Thorneycroft Fowler, who wrote "Concerning Isabel Carnaby," is attracting considerable attention. For some feason it is continually mentioned in connection with "Red Pottage," probably because both were issued about the same time, but there is no comparison in the two novels with the exception of the epigrammatic fad which is so strong a feature of their composition. The latter contains throughout the bad flavor of an intrigue between a young man and a married woman. "A Double Thread" is clean and wholesome in every detail, but the epigrams with which it abounds make one's head swim. Epigram making is easy nowadays. Simply turn a proverb backward or write a statement the reverse of that generally accepted and reverse of that generally accepted and therefore rather during and you have an epigram. It is the fashion pow, particu-larly for women, to say things that sound like epigrams. Here are a few samples

of Ellen Thorneycroft Fowler's style for the edification of the aspiring: "To be successful woman, always show your feelings and hide your opin-tons." "A woman who won't flatter is like a plane that won't play. It may be an im-posing piece of furniture but it isn't a

'We like best the people who appre "We like best the people who appreciate our jokes, but we love best the people who believe our fibs."

"A girl should always tell a man all about herself even if there isn't a word of truth in it."

"Friendship is an immense capacity for the best best of the state of the state

not being bored. Love is an infinite ca-pacity for not being bored."
"Men love a woman because she hap-pens to possess the qualities that they happen to admire. Women admire cerain qualities because the men they love

tain qualities because the men they love happen to possess them."
"Marriage increases a woman's social successes but impairs a man's."
"If the unsclish people took as much trouble to be pleasant as the selfish ones "Never marry a selfish man whatever

"Conscientious people always think what pleases them is not right and what pleases other people is absolutely wrong.

THE MOST interesting series of lec-tures of a purely literary character which have been given in Scranton will be held in Guernsey hall beginning April 26 and the Thursday evenings following until May 24. These lectures are anticipated with special interest as they are to be delivered by Professor Edward Howard Griggs, the famous authority on literature and art, formerly of Leland Stanford university. Those who heard Profesor Griggs in his Florentine lecture at the Green Ridge Presbyterian church will recall one of the most delightful evenings possible to remember.

The subjects for the series are as fol-The subjects for the series are as follows: April 25, Literature and Liberal Culture; May 3, St. Francis of Assist; May 10, Self Culture Through the Vocation; May 13, the Frst Part of Goethe's Faust; May 24, the Spirit of Venice, Miss Gerecke, of Green Ridge, has been active in securing Professor Griggs for these lectures, the only motive being the opportunity thus afforded for intellectual stimulus of the reading portion of the community. The low price of thekets, only \$2 for the entire course, renders it within the reach of many who might otherwise be excluded.

THE GIRLS' MISSION BAND will have a cake and candy sale this atternoon in the Second Presbyterian church parlors to which the public is invited.

Plain Enough.

Eminent Handwriting Expert (on wit-ness stand)—The writer of this note is a bunko steerer by instinct. Eminent Attorney-Explain to the jury ow you arrive at that conclusion. Eminent Handwriting Expert-Because "J."-Paltimore American.

His Experience "I suppose you sell large quantities of your preparation?" said his friend. "Oh, yes!" replied the hair-restorer man, cheerfully. "The average baldman, cheerfully. "The average bald-headed man will struggle against the in-evitable."—Puck.

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