The Scranton Tribune

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LIVY S. RICHARD, Editor.
O. F. BYXBEE, Business Manager.

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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 26, 1900.

STATE CONVENTION CALL.

To the Republican Electors of Pennsylvania:

I am directed by the Republican state committee to announce that the Republicans of Pennsylvania, by their duly chosen representatives, will meet in convention at the opera house, in the city of Harrisburg, on Wednesday, April 25, 1900, at 10:30 o'clock a. m., for the purpose of nominating candidates for the following offices, to wit:

One person for the office of auditor general.

Two persons for the office of congressman-at-large.

Thirty-two persons (four-at-large) for presidential electors, and to choose eight delegates and eight alternates-at-large to the Republican national convention to be held in Philadelphia on Tuesday, the nineteenth day of June next, and for the transaction of such other business as may be presented.

In accordance with the rule adopted at the state convention held in Harrisburg on August 24th, last, the representation in the state convention will be based on the vote polled at the last presidential election. Under this rule each legislative district is entitled to one delegate for every two thousand votes cast for the presidential electors, in 1896, and an additional delegate for every fraction of two thousand votes polled in excess of one thousand. Each district is entitled to the same number of delegates as represented it in the convention of 1898.

By order of the Republican state committee.

Frank Reeder, Chairman.
W. R. Andrews, C. E. Voorhees, Secretaries.

REPUBLICAN NOMINATIONS.

Legislature.

First District—THOMAS J. REYNOLDS.

Second District—JOHN SCHEUER, JR.

Speculation as to the grand jury's report is interesting, but uncertain. The best proof of the pudding is in the taste.

The Kentucky Situation.

IT IS NOT likely that any unbiased person will place much credence in the partisan prosecution of the Republican secretary of state of Kentucky on the charge of being accessory to the murder of William Goebel. The case against Secretary Powers, so far as it has been made public, consists of a "confession" by one Wharton Golden, a notorious character, to the effect that Powers had secured the presence in Frankfort of a number of armed mountaineers for the premeditated purpose of killing Goebel and enough Democratic legislators to give the Republicans control of the general assembly. Golden says that Powers openly avowed this purpose and intimates that Governor Taylor was privy to it. The improbability does not occur to him nor to his prompters that if the Republican officials had plotted a series of assassinations, as he alleges, they would hardly have gone about proclaiming their intentions to men of the Golden stripe.

This prosecution is very evidently manufactured for the purpose of keeping up party feeling. It is to be used, we suspect, as a pretext to excuse the Democratic contestants for declining to abide by their written agreement to take no forcible steps in their pursuit of office but to remit the whole controversy to the courts. The chief paragraph of this agreement reads as follows: "Should any party, after the final determination of the causes by the court of appeals, desire a writ of error to the Supreme court of the United States to review such determination, it is agreed that such writ shall be immediately applied for and diligently prosecuted, if secured, and that all parties to said causes will unite in an application to said federal Supreme court to docket and advance said causes and give them the earliest hearing and determination possible."

In spite of this agreement, threats are being made in the Democratic newspapers and among the Democratic leaders to take forcible possession of the state house and archives as soon as the packed state courts have handed down their pre-determined decision against the Republicans; armed men are now in Frankfort, it is believed for the express purpose of executing these threats; and the trumped-up prosecution of Secretary Powers is being used as a reason why the Democratic following should "waste no more time in parleying with murderers," etc., but should proceed to vindicate their claims to office by force. The Republican leaders have notified the contestants and have also informed the federal authorities at Washington that until the matter has been decided by the Supreme court of the United States adversely to their claim they will not yield up the state house; and if trouble shall arise because of their refusal to yield the responsibility for it must rest with those who precipitate it.

Now that the legislature of Kentucky has adjourned, a call by Governor Taylor on the president for federal troops to quell domestic violence is a possible sequence of any attempt by the Democrats to enforce mob law; and it is difficult to see how, should such a call be made, the president could consistently refuse to honor it.

This afternoon a caucus of Republican senators is to be held to determine upon a course of action with reference to Puerto Rico, and its decision should decide. Delay is becoming dangerous.

The senate's adoption of a bill to authorize the president to appoint a commission of five persons to investigate thoroughly trade conditions and possibilities in the Philippines will commend itself to all intelligent believers in expansion. The problem demands the best thought that the country can give to it and the president can be trusted to name the right men.

Senator Carter may well term congress' treatment of Alaska "pathetic." That territory has repaid its cost ten times over and is today the abode of hundreds of thousands of energetic Americans bent upon the development of its natural resources, and yet year after year it has knocked in vain at the door of congress for legislation to provide it with a modern system of government. This time its just demand should be heeded.

Amending the Bankruptcy Law.

THAT THE present federal bankruptcy law is in need of material amendment in the direction of greater protection of creditors is apparent to all who have noticed its operation. When men can accumulate a million dollars' worth of liabilities on the strength of assets like one bone collar button and get safely through the courts with a clean bill of commercial character, as men are doing every day, it goes without saying that the law is defective. It will be gratifying to lovers of honesty to know that Representative Ray of the house judiciary committee, has introduced a bill to correct some of the law's more glaring defects.

This bill makes six objections to the discharge of a debtor in addition to those embodied in the present law: First, obtaining property on credit upon a materially false statement in writing; second, making a preference, though the bill makes it necessary that the creditor relying upon this objection shall prove that the preference was fraudulent; third, the making of a fraudulent transfer of property; fourth, that the bankruptcy was materially contributed to or brought on by gambling; fifth, that a discharge shall be refused to any one who has previously been discharged within six years, and sixth, that a discharge shall be denied to any one who refuses in the course of the proceeding to answer any questions approved by the court. The bill also provides that mercantile corporations may be adjudged voluntary bankrupts after receiving the consent thereto of a majority of their stockholders; also, that a voluntary receivership of an insolvent corporation under the state laws shall be an act of bankruptcy. It shortens the time from 25 days to ten days when default is made, and provides for a short service by publication where the debtor has absconded. The bill makes the wife a competent witness, irrespective of the laws of the state.

If some of these provisions appear drastic it must be recognized that severity is a natural reaction from legal laxity. The last congress made a great mistake in opening so wide a door to fraud as it did in the leniency of its conditions precedent to bankruptcy. It thought it was showing debtors great favor. As a matter of fact it subjected them to the danger of much more stringent legislation.

Twice now has the Democratic membership of congress voted almost solidly against the giving back to Puerto Rico of the $2,000,000 in tariff duties collected on imports from that island since it came under American control. And yet the Democracy poses as Puerto Rico's friend!

South American Possibilities.

FORMAL acceptance by Mexico of the invitation of the United States to hold in the Mexican capital a second Pan-American congress is announced at Washington, thus insuring, it is believed, the realization of this project at an early date. There seems to be more behind this idea than at first appeared to casual observation.

"The state department," says the Washington Post, "has noted with much concern the malevolent efforts of certain interests to incite deep-seated jealousy of the United States among the Latin-American republics. It is known that some of these efforts originated with European residents in South and Central America, who were desirous of crippling the trade of the United States with that section of the world. They also informed these people that the United States had sinister designs upon their political independence. The astonishing fact is that these efforts actually obtained a considerable measure of success. The figures now in the possession of the officials here show that, contrary to the common belief, the export trade of the United States with our Southern neighbors has decreased enormously, the loss in dollars being stated at not less than $100,000,000 within the last decade. Ordinary commercial factors are said to be insufficient to explain this loss, which is therefore attributed to political elements. It is confidently believed by the projectors of this congress that as one of its results much of this lost trade can be recovered by eradicating the unfounded suspicions entertained by some of the South American republics."

How serious this disaffection is cannot, of course, be ascertained with accuracy; but it does not take a long examination of the statistics of our trade with South America to disclose that something is wrong. During the last three years we have purchased South American goods to the average value of about $92,000,000; during the same period the annual average value of our exports to South America has been only about $35,000,000. In other words, for every dollar that we have exported to the Latin-American republics we have imported nearly three dollars. They get the benefit of our Monroe doctrine, of our police protection, of the republican influences generated by the United States, and at the same time they are pocketing a cash balance of trade amounting to nearly 50 per cent. of their entire commerce with us.

A situation so anomalous, existing at a time when in all other directions the American commercial expansion movement is progressing amazingly, constitutes a standing challenge to American statesmanship. It is unnatural and not to be endured. Although the blame is our own for early neglect, during which English and German trading influences profited by American indifference and established themselves so firmly that to dislodge them will be difficult, the time has come in the development of American influences when the gage of battle must be accepted and the struggle for commercial primacy begun with vigor. We cannot afford to ask for any unfair advantages, but we can at least see to it that our commercial rivals are not successful in lying about us.

Eight years ago Herbert H. Vreeland was a conductor on a small steam railroad; today he is president of the company which controls the surface railroads of New York. His rise was due to the fact that the ability which he exhibited in the smaller position recommended him for larger trusts. There is no better recipe for success.

Exports of manufactures for February were $34,226,128. In February, one year ago, they were $24,489,860. The United States is bound to become the workshop of the world.

Mrs. Langtry and "The Degenerates" have been barred out of Cleveland. This is doubtless another result of too much enthusiasm on the part of the yellow press agent.

It is to be hoped that Ball Player Jennings' decision to become a Philadelphia editor will not be regarded as the case of a fast man seeking slow company.

Mr. Bryan wants it understood once for all that no Gold Democrats need apply.

Puerto Ricans Not Yet Prepared for Full Citizenship

Washington Letter, Pittsburg Times.

THE DEMOCRATIC position concerning our new possessions is that the constitution of the United States was extended to them at the moment of their acquisition, and that, therefore, the inhabitants thereof became at once full-fledged citizens of the United States, possessing all the rights and privileges incident to such citizenship. It is upon this ground that the Democratic party has raised such a howl against the proposition to impose a 15 per cent. duty upon Puerto Rican products imported into the United States, their contention being that, the Puerto Ricans being citizens as much as are the people of this country, the placing of any duty upon their products is as unconstitutional and unjust as would be the imposition of a duty upon the products coming from one state or territory to another.

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From a sentimental point of view, this may seem all right. But the affairs of a people are not run exclusively on sentiment. Government is a serious business, and charity begins at home. Our new possessions were not acquired as the result of a national desire for territorial aggrandizement. The American people did not enter into the war with Spain with the hope or expectation of acquiring Puerto Rico, the Philippines or Guam. Their acquisition was an incident to that war, and not its purpose. Now that we have them, what shall be done concerning them is a question to be settled in such a way as, securing to the people of those islands good government, justice and that measure of prosperity which is possible to bring about by proper legislation, shall also not inflict injustice upon our own people. The man who finds a deserted babe upon his doorstep is bound to shelter and protect it, at least for the time being, but no considerations of justice or humanity can demand that he shall disinherit his own children for its benefit.

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Followed to its legitimate conclusion, the Democratic contention as to the status of our new possessions is that their people are as much American citizens as are those of Pennsylvania. If that is granted it may be well to inquire what sort of people they really are. In October, 1898, President McKinley appointed Henry K. Carroll special commissioner for the United States to Puerto Rico to investigate and report the civil, industrial, financial, and social conditions of that island. Mr. Carroll made two visits to Puerto Rico, going to the chief cities and districts of the island, and taking the testimony of all insular and municipal officials, judges, lawyers, doctors, bankers, merchants, planters, manufacturers, artisans, field laborers, inhabitants of the poor quarters in cities—persons of all classes and colors, Spaniards, Germans and other foreign residents, everyone, in fact, who could and would give facts showing actual and existing conditions, and the reasons why they existed. All this testimony, together with Mr. Carroll's conclusions and recommendations, are to be found in the voluminous report which he made to the president, and from that report the statements herein made are taken.

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In 1897 the population of Puerto Rico was made up of 572,187 whites, 241,900 mixed, or mulattoes, and 75,824 blacks, or negroes. Only 4,324 were classed as foreigners, or whites of other nationalities than Spaniards by birth or descent. The statistics of births in 1897 show that about 52 per cent. were legitimate and 48 per cent. were illegitimate children. Mr. Carroll, in connection with this rather startling state of affairs, says: "The births are by no means, owing to defective laws, fully reported, but complete returns would not probably make the showing better. Half or more of the children born are illegitimate, and it follows that a large proportion of the parents are living in conjugal relations without marriage." Various reasons are given for these conditions, some having relation to religious restrictions, other to the financial condition of the people. But, without entering into them in detail, it hardly seems unjust to say that a people who, for any reasons whatever, are content to live under conditions which make this state of affairs possible, are not calculated to make ideal American citizens.

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The public school system is characterized as "decidedly inferior and insufficient." Little attention was paid to educating the children in the country districts. In fact, the first rural school for girls was established no longer ago than 1889. The school population of the island on November 1, 1898, was 125,695, the school age being between five and 18 years. Of this number 27,588 had attended school and 93,757 had not. Returns in March, 1899, showed a registered attendance of 26,588, including private schools, and an average attendance of 18,979. Naturally under such conditions as these, illiteracy is the rule, rather than the exception. The last census does not give the returns on this subject, and those of 1889 are the only ones available. In that year, when the population was 583,181, only 51,250 were literate, while 531,931 were illiterate. Over 90 per cent. were unable to read. The estimates of present conditions vary; some say that 15, others 18 or 20, per cent. of the population are able to read and write. Of the population of Ponce, numbering in 1887, between 48,000 and 49,000, only 14,294 can read, or read and write. The greatest amount of illiteracy is, of course, in the rural districts, where the population is hard to reach with school facilities

Agriculture is almost the only source of industrial wealth in the island. The tax returns indicate 60,932 rural estates and 50,753 owners. The crops most generally raised are, according to the census of 1896, and in the order of areas occupied, coffee, 121,176 acres; sugar cane, 60,884; tobacco, 4,222. Besides these there are minor products, including vegetables and bananas, to the raising of which 92,516 acres were devoted, and other crops, including oranges, cocoanuts, and fruits in general, covering 16,115 acres. The daily wages of the ordinary field laborer range generally from 35 to 50 cents per day, native money. A few of the more skilled get from 60 to 75 cents. Young boys and the few women employed receive about 25 or 30 cents per day. "The house of the laborers," says Mr. Carroll, "is very small and poor. In the rural districts it is built usually of thatch of the palm, leaves of the sugar cane, or other vegetables fibers. It is placed on four posts, standing from one to three feet from the ground. The floor is very uneven and far from tight. It generally has three rooms, sometimes only two. Fortunately no sash is needed for the windows in that mild climate. Almost no furniture is visible. A kettle serves as a sort of portable range. In this, with a little charcoal, or splinters of wood, whatever cooking is necessary is done. Sometimes a scissors bedstead without mattresses or pillows, and with a little covering, is seen; sometimes a sack or two, suspended from the roof, does duty as a hammock. These houses are often occupied by families of five or more, who dispose themselves for sleep in the different corners of the rooms, often on palm branches. For chairs, a box or two must do as substitutes; and as for tables, it is not every man that can afford one."

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The ordinary household utensils, not numerous, consist of a tin case in which oil was imported, with a bar of wood across it to serve as a handle; a fire kettle, like a plumber's; large and small spoons and cups and ladles, made of the gourd; washtubs fashioned from the sheath of the royal palm, the ends being drawn together; mills for coffee and corn, which are circular flat stones, and mortars hollowed out of the trunks of trees, with the machete to serve as ax, hatchet and knife, and fingers as a substitute for forks. The food of the rural population consists principally of rice, salt codfish, jerked beef, fried plantains and sweet potatoes, seldom fresh meat. The plantain largely takes the place of bread, and they use coffee. Few of the laboring classes are robust. They are small, thin and decidedly anaemic. More nourishing food may be said to be the universal need, and a less destructive drink than the native rum, which does them no little physical injury. The clothing of the poor is of the cheapest description possible, and is very meager. The young children generally go naked. "Those who have two changes of clothing, usually thin cotton goods, consider themselves fortunate. As to shoes, few wear them at all. A committee of business men of Ponce made a careful calculation of the number of shoes required annually for the people of the island. Their estimate was as follows: Fifty thousand wear four pairs a year; 50,000 wear three pairs a year, and 50,000 wear one pair a year. According to this, 150,000 of the 900,000 inhabitants wear shoes regularly, and 50,000 irregularly, leaving 700,000 as belonging to the barefoot class."

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The artisans, or mechanics, of the cities and towns are better educated, have better food, and wear better clothes than do the rural laborers. Representatives of eleven labor unions, painters, tinsmiths, silversmiths, bookbinders, cigar makers, printers, masons, carpenters, bakers, shoemakers and boatmen, appeared before the commission. Nine of the eleven were colored men, who seem to monopolize the trades, at least in the capital. They were neatly dressed, well-appearing, intelligent men. The substance of their complaints was that their yearly income was not enough to allow them to live comfortably and educate their children. In most cases their earnings were from $1 to $1.25 and $1.50 per days of 10 or 11 hours. Work in every line is scarce. The carpenters and masons suffer because there is little building, even in the cities; the bakers because there are so many of them; the tailors and shoemakers because so many cheap shoes and clothes are imported; the printers because there is so little demand for newspapers. Some of the masons make less than 75 cents per day. One of them, in response to an inquiry, said the conditions had been bad ever since he could remember them.

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Justice to the Puerto Ricans demands that the conclusions of the commissioner as to their general characteristics should be fully stated. "The habit of obedience is strong among them. Their respect for law is another notable characteristic. They are not turbulent or violent. Riots are almost unknown in the island; so is organized resistance to law; brigandage flourished only for a short time after the war, and its object was revenge rather than rapine. They are not a criminal people. The more violent crimes are by no means common. Burglary is almost unknown. There are many cases of homicide, but the number in proportion to the population is not so large as in the United States. Thievery is the most common offense, and petty cases make up a large part of this list. The people as a whole are a moral, law-abiding class, mild in disposition, easy to govern, and possess the possibilities of developing to a high type of citizenship. The fact that so many of them enter into the marital relation without the sanction of state or church is, of course, a serious reflection upon their social morality. Half or more of their children are illegitimate. From this stigma they cannot escape. But too much to their discredit may be easily inferred from this scandalous state of affairs. Their apparent defiance of social, civil and ecclesiastical law is not due to immoral purposes, but to conditions of long standing, against which they have deemed it useless to struggle. It is the general testimony that persons living together without the obligations of marriage are as a rule faithful to each other, and care for their offspring with true parental love and devotion."

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Making every possible allowance for the Puerto Ricans, and charging up to conditions which they were unable to surmount much in which they are defective, is still does not seem that they are fitted to become American citizens in all that the term implies from the very time of the annexation of the island. Even if the Democratic position be correct, and the constitution took them within its full provisions from the hour that the Spanish flag was hauled down, it does not appear practicable, for their best interests, as well as those of the people of the United States, to extend to them all the rights and privileges of citizenship. And, moreover, if the Democratic contention be right, then the constitution extends to the Philippines as well as to Puerto Rico. There are few thinking citizens of the United States who are willing and ready to accept this view of so grave a matter. If the Puerto Ricans are not fitted to become citizens from the very first, how much more must it be true that the 10,000,000 inhabitants of the Philippine islands, most of them but little, if anything, more than naked savages, are in every way unfitted for citizenship, with its necessary right to bring their products free into our home markets, there to compete with similar products resulting from the labor of our own people?

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

There is more truth than poetry in the following: Call a a girl a chick and she smiles, call a woman a hen and she howls. Call a young woman a witch and she is pleased; call an old woman a witch and she is indignant. Call a girl a kitten and she rather likes it; call a woman a cat and she hates you. Women are queer. If you call a man a gay dog, it will flatter him; call him a pup, a hound or a cur, and he will try to alter the map of your face. He don't mind being called a bull or a bear, yet he will object to being mentioned as a calf or a cub. Men are queer too.—St. Paul Globe.

In Woman's Realm

THE ECONOMICS SECTION of the Green Ridge Woman's club has issued invitations to a reception to be held Thursday afternoon from 4 to 6 o'clock in honor of Mrs. Linda Hull Larned and Prof. Wingate. The reception will be held in the Green Ridge library and will be a very handsome affair.

* * * *

THE New York Tribune of a recent date says of Mrs. Larned:

"Mrs. Linda Hull Larned, of Syracuse, who has just been elected president of the National Household Economic association, is a club woman who has been a club woman and a new woman to some purpose.

"She is the kind of a club woman who makes the club subservient to the home. Indeed, the social clubs of Syracuse of which she is a member take little of her interest in comparison with the local Domestic Science association, of which she is president and which has successfully established a school of domestic science that has attained a national reputation

"Mrs. Larred is also a writer on household literature, having been for some time the editor of a department on this subject in a well known magazine, and some time since published a little cook book called "The Little Epicure," which she has just followed up with a more comprehensive work upon "The Hostess of Today," which has been published by the Scribners and just placed upon the market.

"This new publication takes for granted that the hostess of today knows how to cook and how to follow recipes in all kinds of cook books, and while this new book contains some recipes, it treats only those which are included in the menus given for special entertainments, breakfasts, luncheons, dinners, suppers, five o'clock teas, chafing dish suppers, either formal or informal; gives novel ideas of artistic menus, decorations and service; gives illustrations of the latest dishes for each service, the necessary napery, silver and the way to serve each item in any menu.

"Directions are given how to plan any function from beginning to end, all the nice little details which make everything pass off smoothly and without any nervous moments for the hostess. These directions include the service with a full retinue of servants or with but one, who is combined cook and waitress.

"The artistic side obtains the most prominence, and the woman of small income is shown just how she can entertain upon any allowance she may have for the purpose. The average price of each dish is given, and every recipe is proportioned for six people. It is therefore easy to plan any kind of a social function with this guide."

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THE COMING of Miss Ethel Chase on Easter Monday night under the auspices of the Woman's guild of St. Luke's church is an event anticipated with much pleasure by many who know of this charming young woman's ability in monologue work. Miss Chase was formerly a Wilkes-Barre girl and has many friends in this region.

PERSONALITIES.

General Lew Wallace is at work upon another drama, the scene of which is said to be laid in Thebes.

Secretary Long has made an interesting collection of the naval flags and signals of all nations. Many of these flags are the gifts of famous sailors of this and other countries.

Congressman Charles B. Landis, of Indiana, whose abilities as an orator are attracting considerable attention, says of himself: "I pitched hay as a lad, worked in a gravel-pit in my youth, and attended college only when I reached manhood."

Hiram Maxim's name is well known throughout the world by reason of the gun which he invented, and which bears his name. It is said that the invention of these guns was the result of his having his shoulder bruised by the recoil in firing an old military musket.

George Wyndham, the British under secretary of state for war, was reminded in the house of commons recently during the progress of a debate that he is the greatgrandson of an Irish rebel. His maternal grandmother was a daughter of Lord Fitzgerald, the "rebel" son of the Duke of Leinster.

Sir Charles Hastings, the famous Indian soldier, ordered that after his death his body should be wrapped in anything that would hold together, buried in an open field, and the soil around him planted with acorns, so that he might render a last service to his country by nourishing a good English oak.

Professor Henry Morton, president of the Stevens Institute of Technology, said the other day that he thought a scientific education of a certain kind necessary to every man, not because this is a scientific age so much as because it is pre-eminently an age requiring that accuracy, which a scientific training develops.

IF I SHOULD DIE TONIGHT.

If I should die tonight,
And you should come to my cold corpse and say,
Weeping and heartsick o'er my lifeless clay,
If I should die tonight,
And you should come in deepest grief and woe
And say, "Here's that ten dollars that I owe,"
I might arise in my large white cravat
And say, "What's that?"

If I should die tonight,
And you should come to my cold corpse and kneel,
Clasping my bier to show the grief you feel—
I say, if I should die tonight
And you should come to me there and then
Just even hint of paying me that ten,
I might rise the while,
But I'd drop dead again.

—Ben King.

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Stationers and Engravers,
Scranton, Pa.

A woman whose home is in Lancaster, Pa., suffered from water brash and sleeplessness, which always ended in severe sick headache, lasting two or three days. Physicians told her it was a "stomach dyspepsia," and that the headaches were due to her age (53 years). She got one small bottle of Ripans Tabules at first, and felt better after taking them. Then she tried more. The water brash left her, and she did not have a spell of sick headache for about a month—the longest she was ever without one for a long time.

A new style packet containing TEN RIPANS TABULES in a paper carton (without glass) is now for sale at some drug stores—FOR FIVE CENTS. This low priced sort is intended for the poor and the economical. One dozen of the five-cent cartons (10 tabules) can be had by mail by sending forty-eight cents to the RIPANS CHEMICAL COMPANY, No. 10 Spruce Street, New York—of a single carton (TEN TABULES) will be sent for five cents.