

The Scranton Tribune

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SCRANTON, APRIL 14, 1900.

FOR VICE-PRESIDENT, CHARLES EMORY SMITH, OF PENNSYLVANIA.

REPUBLICAN NOMINATIONS.

Legislature. First District—THOMAS J. REYNOLDS, Second District—JOHN SCHRIEBER, JR., Third District—EDWARD JAMES, JR.

The Republican party is not so poor in vice-presidential material that there is any excuse for threatening to force the nomination on a man who doesn't want it.

An Opportunity Lost.

REPORT CREDITS the Republican leaders with having very reluctantly given up the hope of inducing Governor Roosevelt to withdraw his refusal to be considered a candidate for vice president, and it is said that while some of them are disposed to favor the nomination of Secretary Long or Representative James S. Sherman of Utica, New York's unsuccessful candidate for the speakership, others are inclined to conclude that the east does not want the vice presidency and therefore are looking over the western field for available material.

Imagine the difference which would be worked in this situation if the Republicans of Pennsylvania, without regard to faction, should make a concerted effort through their representative party leaders to secure the vice presidency for their own state, New York not wanting it, Pennsylvania could have it for the asking, and where throughout the nation is a candidate more fit than Charles Emory Smith? There are opportunities which do not hold open long, and this is one of them. Action must follow words if the vice presidency is to come to our commonwealth.

There used to be talk of a Miles Presidential boom, but the experience of Dewey will keep the general under cover.

The Problem of the Friars.

SENATOR MORGAN'S amendment to the Spooner Philippine resolution binding the American government to execute the pledges made and subsequently broken by Spain when by trickery she overcame the insurrection of 1896 calls up the most difficult of our problems in the archipelago, the relationship of the government to the friars.

There is little misunderstanding of this problem among Americans who have had opportunity to study the subject at first hand. We have talked with a number of returned American military officers, men without ecclesiastical bias, and we have read the opinions of other Americans, military and civilian, who have personally investigated the matter, and there is practical unanimity in the belief that as a whole the friars have fairly earned the ill-will in which they are regarded. One of the clearest discussions of the problem that we have seen is presented in a letter to the Washington Star by one of its editors who is now in the Philippines. This writer, Mr. Theodore W. Noyes, says:

"I have been disappointed in my expectation that I would find the Filipinos, outside of the hostile fraction in arms, full of confidence in the Americans and heartily welcoming their control. Their attitude is apparently one of anxious expectancy, tinged with more or less of hopefulness, according to the individual disposition. I believe that this doubt concerning the benefit of American control is based more upon uncertainty concerning our policy in respect to the friars than in respect to any other issue whatsoever, even that of full self-government. I do not think that there will be genuine peace, happiness and prosperity in the Philippines, if we attempt, and as long as we continue, to enact Spain's role as the ally and backer of the friars."

Mr. Noyes proceeds to tell at considerable length what grievances he found against the friars among the more intelligent natives, and he adds: "The Filipino hatred of the friars is not directed against them as Roman Catholics. The mass of the Filipinos are Catholics, and there is no religious revolt whatsoever. The churches are well attended. The Roman Catholic church will in its own interest do well to consider how far it is wise to alienate a Catholic population by attempting to force upon the people as its representative men who are feared and detested. Of course, generalizations about the friars as a body will fail to fit the cases of some individual priests, who as good men may be personally acceptable to their parishes. But on the broad question of making the cause of the friars its own the decision of the Roman church is eagerly awaited, both by the Filipino people and by the Protestant denominations of the world, which are ready to take advantage of any blunder in policy which may be committed."

There is no reason why American Catholics should side with the friars. These men are Spaniards, with more than the natural national grudge against us. They are the essence of Spanish misgovernment in the Philippines, which we have overthrown; they hate us and spit upon our flag. In great cases if returned to the villages

they will become centers of anti-American sentiment and influence. If Luzon is to be gradually Americanized this task will be aided, so far as the influence of the Roman church extends, only through English-speaking priests. In Panay, as in Luzon, the monastic orders have been driven out by the people. Speaking to me on this subject at Iloilo, General Hughes said that in his opinion the Catholic church should put in every parish a sensible English-speaking priest, to dispel gradually the prejudice against the Spanish friars and to counteract the influence of the native priests, who are almost all insurrectos, and in many cases ignorant and corrupt."

The pledges of Spain, which Senator Morgan wants our government to fulfill, included among other things the promise to expel the friars. It is not possible for the United States to execute any such pledge as this. It cannot officially recognize either for reward or punishment any ecclesiastical order; it can consider only the cases of individuals against whom complaint is made according to the forms of law. The United States should not be the ally nor the prosecutor of the friars. It should stop injustice, prevent outrage and punish crime fearlessly and irrespective of persons, and in the long run this policy will upbuild stable institutions. In the meantime, we have no doubt that the American influences of the Catholic church will prevail in the substitution in all our new territory of a clergy qualified to sympathize with and to aid in the construction of American institutions.

The Scranton Times has made the discovery that Senator Clark, the Montana Crosser, is a Republican. This will be news in Washington.

For Vice President.

AT THE TRIBUNE'S masthead today is named the colors of Charles Emory Smith for vice-president. The Tribune has suggested this nomination in perfect good faith. It was not intended as an idle or meaningless compliment to the man. But it was the result of irresistible conclusion after dispassionate and mature reflection. Intervening political conditions accentuate the Tribune's foresight in its suggestion of Mr. Smith's nomination. Every state (Pennsylvania always excepted) in this year's electorate has been searched and canvassed by the Republican leaders for an available candidate for the vice-presidency. The name of almost every prominent Republican in the country, regardless of local political conditions, has been mentioned in the same connection. No state except New York has been seriously considered, and no name outside that state has been seriously considered by the Republican leaders. With New York excluded, the question is narrowed down to the most available outside candidate for the nomination. Availability is the test, and if availability means non-compromising honesty, unquestioned capacity, devotion to Republican principles, conspicuous public service, sound judgment, tried statesmanship, inflexible integrity, a strong, robust manhood, a clean, pure life, a typical American yeoman, Charles Emory Smith fills the requirement. Pennsylvania commands the situation.

The announcement that Peck's Sun had suspended publication the other day, scarcely caused a ripple of comment. For some years past the paper has been entirely forgotten outside of the city in which it was published. Peck's Sun entered the field as an humorous publication and became celebrated at a period when a great deal of tedious matter passed for wit. Among the most noted productions of the Sun were a number of articles entitled "Peck's Bad Boy," and many an ambitious youngster has come to grief in the endeavor to act as funny as the hero of the "Bad Boy" series. Within the last decade, however, the stock in trade of the Sun has failed to attract attention, and the once brilliant orb of western journalism has gone down behind the horizon, unnoticed and unremembered.

Accompanying the report of the collapse of a big brick building in Pittsburgh which resulted in the death of three persons and the injury of several others, the announcement is made that the building inspector will make an investigation. It seems as though it would have been better if the building inspector had made an investigation before the building gave way. It should be the business of the coroner's jury to make investigation and demonstrate if possible that the idea that at times seems to prevail elsewhere to the effect that the duty of a building inspector consists chiefly in drawing his salary, is dangerous to public safety.

Colonel Boies' comment upon the Puerto Rican tariff arrangement, that it is "an absolute necessity," epitomizes the situation as revealed to every open-minded American visitor to Puerto Rico. In their present condition the masses of the inhabitants of that island simply could not pay the direct taxes which would be necessary to support their government if this temporary revenue tariff were not imposed. The administration knew what it was doing when it modified its original demand for immediate free trade; and its honest critics will soon perceive the error of their antagonism.

Susquehanna county people have been relieved by the announcement that the supposed smallpox epidemic at Auburn is really nothing but the Cuban chicken pox. There have been no deaths and the patients are all recovering. While the Cuban complaint is not inviting, it does not inspire the terror that always accompanies a smallpox epidemic, although modern

medical science has rendered the once dreaded disease less to be feared than many of the more common ailments.

The Philadelphia Ledger concludes that the United States has been "weighed in the balance and found wanting" because it provided a revenue tariff for Puerto Rico which the Puerto Rican legislature can, if it wishes to, annul as soon as it is organized. The Ledger's gloom is without foundation.

"Whatever popular sympathy there may be for the Boer cause, no European government," writes a London correspondent, "is prepared to declare war on Great Britain nor to undertake to dispatch an army of several hundred thousand men to South Africa. Those are the only conditions under which intervention would serve any practical purpose after the explicit warnings given by the British government." Pro-Boer Americans would do well to bear this fact in mind.

Manila Justice, as administered by General Funston, should be ratified, even though convictions may at times be hasty. The idea cherished by the average Filipino leader that he can act the brigand as long as suits his fancy and at any time come into the American camp, surrender and be forgiven, no doubt has had its effect in prolonging the trouble in the Philippines. The sooner the Atkinson "patriots" can be convinced that punishment awaits wanton crime the sooner peace will be restored.

"It is," writes ex-Congressman Towne, "no abandonment of the principle of free silver to admit that circumstances may temporarily have obscured the importance of the question." Besides, look how convenient it is.

When Governor Taylor of Kentucky appears as a delegate-at-large to the Philadelphia convention, he should be received in a way to emphasize honest American opinion upon the manner in which he has been treated.

George Fred Williams may rejoice that he has at least received honorable mention in the search for Democratic vice-presidential possibilities.

As an element of disaster in Kansas, the Democratic convention reminds one of the old-time grasshopper plague.

TOLD BY THE STARS.

Daily Horoscope Drawn by Ajaechus, The Tribune Astrologer. Astrological cast: 1:22 a. m., for Saturday, April 14, 1900.

A child born on this day will notice that no one can criticize so thoroughly and artistically as the man who has been a dead failure himself.

Some men who imagine that they are political leaders occupy positions similar to that of the boy who leans his back against the wall on a bridge and prides himself on his boldness.

The much-discussed servant girl question does not worry the housewife who has ambition augmented with a slight knowledge of cooking.

The cheery man is successful because he is never discouraged at the opinions of people who brown upon his impudence.

The man who has hit himself called honest without blushing has either a good record or a iron nerve.

Friendship cannot be bought with money, though it may occasionally be rented.

A muddy conscience often accompanies a clear complexion. Hope makes some men famous—others bore.

Ajaechus' Advice. Avoid the melancholy critic. His complaint is more contagious than smallpox.

If you would be happy do not see and view them as they are. Take a step backward and think what they should be.

The Methodists in Washington

Special Correspondence of The Tribune. Washington, April 12. THE AVERAGE Methodist preacher is not only a good man, a useful citizen, a denouncing evangelist in church and community, a man of letters, a philosopher, a statesman, and being a practical, sensible, unselfish man, and an acute observer of current happenings, he is, unwittingly, perhaps, a good politician. Every consideration, as a rule, in his estimation, is subordinated to God and country.

He always spells country with a big C. His life is spent among the plain people and he absorbs all that is good and exemplary and patriotic in such association. He is not a politician in the common and disreputable acceptance. He is a discerning reader, a close observer of secular affairs, and what he says in that direction, however indirectly it may be said, is sometimes worth more to the cause of decent politics than volumes of the Congressional Record or than tons of campaign literature, or than a brigade of spellbinders. Nobody more than the average politician knows this.

The general conferences of the Northern and Southern Methodist churches met in Washington last week. The meeting of the two conferences within a state's borders is a thing of great importance in the wonderful history of this great ecclesiastical body.

Who the stranger dropped in at the Metropolitan church when Grant worshipped and where President McKinley is now a zealous member, and who later looked in on the Southern conference at the Mount Vernon Square church, there was no difference. The personnel of the two bodies hardly attracted attention. Even that distinctive Southern accent missing in the Southern conference, with notable exceptions. The division of the church on sectional lines seems to be irreversibly in the dead past, and is maintained mainly because its numerical growth demands separate organizations.

The meeting of the two conferences in this presidential election year in Washington may not have been foreordained, but was a very exceptional opportunity to hear directly from the moral public sentiment of the country. It goes without the saying they took every advantage, early and late, of it to mingle with "the brethren." It was impossible to keep a quorum of the house at the capitol, and in the absence of the very Southern who was meeting regularly and conspicuously with the "circuit rider" from his congressional district) who demands a quorum on all occasions by way of emphasizing the old adage which says that "the constitution follows the flag," no member had the temerity to suggest it. The absent member was either at the Southern or Northern conference, and from all that can be learned and from what has leaked out in unexpected places, he got some information that he was not looking for. One incident illustrated it. "After talking seriously with several well known preachers from my state," remarked a Western member, "I have concluded that the Methodist church is thinking more about the free souls that will follow American civilization in Puerto Rico and the Philippines than free trade, and I am beginning to think, after all, we Democrats have made a nice mess of the whole thing."

MAY BE THE END OF DEWEY.

An incident at Thursday's Northern conference illustrates the readiness and perception of the average conference member and shows the drift of things from the campaign standpoint.

Rev. Charles Jones, of the Republican party, introduced a resolution from the Rock River con-

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ference convulsed the meeting by undertaking to quote Admiral Dewey. Mr. Jones, after gaining recognition from the chair, said: "The hero of Manila said—here his speech was cut short by prolonged groans from almost the entire body of ministers. Mr. Jones stood seemingly dumbfounded for a moment. He started again, but this time a voice in the audience shouted, 'You mean his wife said.'" If it should turn out that the admiral is really a candidate for the presidency, with the hope of capturing the vice-presidential nomination on the Bryan ticket, Brother Jones has not only anticipated anything new the Manila hero may say, but has suggested a striking campaign song with the title "You mean his wife said." But, seriously, the Dewey movement has sufficiently progressed in many a campaign and his wife's ambition as mutually inseparable as the positive and negative forces in electricity. The country was eager to forget the unpleasant incident connected with the transfer of the admiral's house to Mrs. Dewey, immediately following the marriage. It was the gift of the nation. The disposition made of it was offensive to the keen sense of American propriety. But more discredited attached to the "destiny woman" than to the "golfing hero." Whatever the details and however positive the explanation and emphatic the disclaimers, the impression that the transfer of the house was due to the new wife's influence was not removed. The admiration of the people that everywhere greeted the admiral since this incident have not been shared by Mrs. Dewey. Her presence has been threatened with reprobation that would discredit any man named.

Man's Obitier Dictum. He—There are two periods in a man's life when he never understands a woman. "Before he is married and afterward."—Culver's Weekly. Another Instance. "Do you think Rev. Sheldon's daily paper has proven anything?" "Yes; that advertising pays."—Indianapolis Sun. Spring Styles. "Henrietta has become a perfect mirror of fashion of late—changes her clothes five times a day. What did he have on when you saw him last?" "He had a jag on."—Philadelphia North American. Utterior Design. "See how I can count, mamma," said Kitty. "There's my right foot. That's one. There's my left foot. That's two. Two and one makes three. There's five feet a yard, and I want to go out and play in it."—Chicago Tribune. Dreadful Cass. There was once a man that sang bass. And whenever he opened his bass. The girls would cry, "Oh! How lovely! And oh! How lovely!" "How lovely and great!"—Indianapolis Press.

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