

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 contributions shall be subject to editorial revision.

SCRANTON, MAY 31, 1900.

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

REPUBLICAN NOMINATIONS.

State. Congressmen—L. G. GALUSHA A. GROW, ROBERT H. FOERSTER, Auditor General—E. B. HARDENBERG.

Legislative.

First District—THOMAS J. REYNOLDS, Second District—JOHN SCHIFFER, JR., Third District—EDWARD JAMES, JR., Fourth District—F. A. FRIEDL.

The decision of the house to put the whole matter of the purchase of armor plate, including the adjustment of price, in the discretion of the secretary of the navy presents a solution of this troublesome problem to which the senate ought cordially to agree. It is a great grant of power, but John D. Long can be trusted.

Trolley Vs. Steam Roads.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT of the plans of the Scranton and Northeastern trolley railway company doubtless presages a spirited local fight between the trolley and the steam roads. The latter will see in the new road a serious menace to their passenger traffic, especially in the territory between Scranton and Wilkes-Barre; and if they shall follow the example set by most steam roads in other localities similarly threatened, they will reduce their fares and try in this way to retain their business.

In other words, there will be competition and the public will get the benefit. And yet there should be enough business to enable both the steam and the trolley roads to operate at a fair profit. As the facilities for local inter-communication multiply and cheapen, the volume of such travel ought to increase in proportion, and the fact that the trolley route only partly conflicts with the steam routes while opening new channels of travel should tend to a final adjustment of the problem on a basis satisfactorily to both.

All this, however, is a matter for the future. The present fact of interest is that a new public convenience is promised, the advantages of which are pictured in rosy colors and the realization of which it is to be hoped will correspond. The trolley road is the road of the common people and a good one in one of the public's most valuable possessions.

It is a pleasure to note that a good many people yesterday remembered Memorial Day otherwise than as an occasion for a big ball game.

Taking the Census.

BEGINNING tomorrow, the census taker will have the right of way and it would be well if every citizen should make his work as easy as possible by preparing in advance to answer his questions promptly, accurately and in good humor. The census taker is not meddlesomely inquisitive by nature, and if he were, he could not, under the law, divulge any of the information imparted to him in his official capacity. Each enumerator has been supplied with a commission and official badge, which give him the right of entry into every house; and the law provides that those who refuse to answer the questions which the government has instructed him to ask shall be liable to a fine not exceeding \$100. The enumerator, on his part, must hold these answers as confidential, under penalty of a fine not to exceed \$500.

Some of the questions which he will ask are rather personal, but he will not ask them for the fun of the thing. He will ask them because the law requires him to; and the good citizen, for the same reason, will cheerfully answer them. He will ask the date and place of the birth of every date; whether single, married, widowed or divorced; number of years married; number of children living and dead; place of birth of father and mother; year of immigration to the United States if an immigrant; number of years in the United States; facts as to naturalization; occupation; months in census year not employed; months of attendance at school; whether able to read, write and speak English; whether house is owned or rented, and if owned, whether there is a mortgage; whether defective in sight, hearing or speech; also, name, color, race, sex, date of birth, age, whether single, married or widowed, place of birth, place of birth of father and mother, occupation, and date of death of any member of the family who may have died within the census year (June 1, 1899, to May 31, 1900), together with disease or cause of death, length of residence in the city, name of attending physician and physician's statement of cause of death. The word "family" as used in the census includes every person residing in the house.

This information is well understood, is not wanted by the government because of its reference to any individual citizen; it is wanted to make up the statistical tables which give a census value. The purpose of asking whether a man's house is mortgaged or owned free of incumbrance is not to pry into his private affairs; anyhow, that could be done by searching the records in the court house; its purpose is to ascertain what percent-

age of the homes of the American people are owned unconditionally by their occupants—a very interesting and instructive point bearing directly upon the question of the country's progress in prosperity. Nor are the inquiries as to age, date and place of birth, length of marriage, etc., propounded in a spirit of impertinence; they have a valuable connection with determining the annual birth and death rate, the proportion of married, widowed or divorced to single persons, and the ratio between native and foreign born, as well as the number of those who are the offspring of parents born in foreign countries.

When complete the census will be full of instruction to every citizen. The only way to make it complete is to answer its questions willingly.

The Boer envoys are liable to be out of a job before their American itinerancy is half completed.

The Savior of His Country.

WITH THE battle between civil and military authority growing out of the horrible Dreyfus case won as he wanted it won; with amnesty for all concerned in the wretched affair save the principal practically agreed upon; and with all further proceedings remitted to the civil tribunals, where Captain Dreyfus himself may reasonably expect to receive eventually the vindication which is at this time denied him owing to political expediency, the time chosen by general the marquis de Gallifet for relinquishing the French portfolio of war is appropriate and significant.

This grand old Frenchman is not a politician nor a place-hunter. He does not hold office for the money or honor there is in it. He is not in sympathy with the party politics of President Loubet; he has little in common with the prime minister of France, M. Waldeck Rousseau. He became the secretary of war because the army of France was showing signs of treason and monarchist though he is, "Old Silverbeard" is a believer in military loyalty and deemed it his duty to teach the intriguing generals a lesson. He was the one man in France capable of intimidating the seditious officers while retaining the confidence of the rank and file. He grappled treason by the throat and choked it; he forced the army to submit to a revision of the Dreyfus trial; he compelled a peaceful acceptance of the verdict of the court of review; he laid the iron hand of discipline upon the military partisans both of and against the Jew, and having done these things and by doing them saved France, he now steps down and out, soldier and hero to the last.

The retirement of de Gallifet means that the crisis in France is past; that next will come the usual play and counterplay of the tuppenny politicians, for which such men as he have no room. It has been a valuable lesson which this grim old relic of the last Napoleonic regime has taught to the hotbeds of the so-called republic. May he end his days in peace.

Judge Simonton has demonstrated that the bicycle side path law is not proof against puncture.

When to Marry.

(From the Indianapolis Press.)

THE COUNTRY has been regaled with two opposing arguments lately on this important question. Edward Bok, in the columns of the Ladies' Home Journal, expresses the opinion that no man under twenty-five years of age should marry, because he knows nothing of love and is not competent to choose or keep a wife. Mr. Bok asserts that before the age of twenty-five the man is a mere boy, with unformed character and nothing as a foundation for marital happiness; that he is entirely ignorant of the first essential elements of love for woman; doesn't know himself; is full of fancies and inclined to flirt; is full of theories that fall when put to the practical test. He is simply a boy, passing through a trying period; his opinions of life are changeable, and therefore his fancy for the girl he loves will also change. He clinches the argument by asserting that the man of thirty seldom weds the girl he fancied at twenty.

On the other hand, the Rev. Newell Dwight Hilditch advises all young men to marry early, to dare to take the girls they love and not be ashamed of poverty at first, but try to work out of it by means of the partnership. Dr. Hilditch argues that the very young man and the very young woman who are fitted for each other by temperament, social standing, tastes and ambition, give each other their confidence without reserve and grow together more and more until their aims and hopes and joys and very lives become one. There is less danger of infidelity in such marriages, because the two lives have been united thoroughly, before too much has been learned by experience of the deceit, distrust and wickedness of what passes for society among the indifferent.

Most thoughtful persons whose experienced observation gives weight to their opinions will be inclined to accept the views of Dr. Hilditch rather than those of Mr. Bok. No rule can be adopted, however, to regulate the time of marriage according to the number of years the man or the woman has lived. Some boys are quite as mature and considerate at twenty as others are at thirty, and perhaps more competent to appreciate and respect the girls to whom their fancy has "lightly turned." Some girls at nineteen are as well qualified for the responsibilities of a home as their sisters are at twenty-five. And then the question of opportunity must be taken into the account. If a young man and a young woman occupying the same social plane, possessed of good common sense, have heart to heart communion with each other, after an acquaintance which gives to each the requisite knowledge of the character and principles of the other, and there is harmony between them at twenty-one and nineteen, why should they wait ten years before uniting their fortunes and their lives, if both have finished their

school education? Many of our greatest men were born of mothers married before reaching the age of twenty. And, indeed, early marriages were the rule in this country until within the last third of the century. It cannot be said they were less happy or less successful than the later unions. The percentage of divorces was much smaller than it has been in the later years.

Advice concerning marriage is cheap, and the rule fixing the limit of age at which young men and young women may enter into the relation is ill-considered. It must be left to circumstances and opportunity. The man should marry at twenty-one if he has found the right girl, and the woman should marry at twenty if she has found the right man. The girl would better wait until she is thirty than to marry the wrong man at twenty. The age is an open question which should not govern individual cases. It may be added that the young couple married while both are innocent, pure and sincere in their attachment rarely have business in the divorce court.

An exchange intimates that the absence of dust on the trail of the Middle-of-the-Roaders may indicate that the Cincinnati wing of Populism has encountered a brick pavement.

Democracy appears liable to suffer more this year than ever from a surplus of ambitious patriots who are anxious to handle the steering apparatus.

The original Dewey-for-president man exhibits an inclination to take to the woods.

The Experiences of One in Misfortune

THIS TOUCHING letter has been sent to The Tribune for publication. It is the story of a cultured woman's desperate condition, and her appeal not for herself but for others who, too, must suffer such wretchedness and misery through no fault of their own, but through the sympathy of the reader. The case has a peculiar application to Scranton philanthropy as it was from this city that emanated the discussion of the subject, relief and compelling any applicants for relief from the poor board to go to the poor house. Lackawanna county still in some portions sections of our poor people, and the slave block system although not to the highest but the lowest bidder who takes the miserable object of charity to the poor house, often makes that life a season of infinite horror. In our own city there has been more than one poor woman who with a little aid from the poor board was able to leave her head and her children with her until they were old enough to assist her. With no refuge but the poor house all ambition has left her and the little ones have scattered and she is driven into depravity. The lady who writes this letter has friends in Scranton. She was once a teacher at Oquendo and is a person of great refinement and high character. Her husband and poor, for such as herself, there is no place in the world.

WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

Not, "What would Jesus do?" for we cannot know what He would do. We know He could do what we cannot do, and we, very often, would do what He would do. It is just what you, dear reader, would do if you were in my place. I do not see the way clearly, and my question will reach those clearer brains and spiritual vision.

For many years, I have had but one ambition, and that was to do my Master's will and all I could for the uplift of humanity. In my work as a teacher, I have had many a child, and my ambition, and that was high. But from overwork and a frail body, my health entirely gave out, and later, my means also so that at least, I, the dear Lord's child, came to be entirely dependent on charity. And not having any home, it has been a heavy life for my friends, to provide for my board bills, though they generally have been generous. My bed of a reasonable quiet room which can be warm, any time of year, when needed, with moderate care, makes even a boarding place hard to find, as well as to have help to do the cooking. I would take a chronic invalid, and I could not be accepted at a home for incurables. The only "open door" (aside from hearing board) was the poor house. But my absolute needs as such could not be met there, and so I would take any possible chance for relief—hence, several years ago application was made for help to the poor board. As a lady house, this, then, was willingly granted, and \$2 per week at that time. With this, and selling the most of my furniture, I was able to get along. My wardrobe (which was small), and my dear watch, which I did not want to keep, I got along for awhile, without being much of tax upon my friends.

Soon after getting this help a young doctor (son of an old friend), called on me and seemed greatly interested in my case—and kindly offered to do all he could for me. He was a good man. From all that he said I had every reason to suppose that service would be free. He at last insisted that I ought to have a surgical operation on my throat, and he offered to do it for me. He said he would pay a cent of the doctor I would only have to pay \$5 per week for board and care. For what I thought of it, I do not know. It was done, much to my disgust.

About five years ago the county awoke to the "true inwardness" of the present law which, it was found, intended to take the heart of the poor man. The only question was, ability to be taken there. Because of my nervous condition and my needs, I was unable to go to the hospital. The only question was, ability to be taken there. Because of my nervous condition and my needs, I was unable to go to the hospital. The only question was, ability to be taken there. Because of my nervous condition and my needs, I was unable to go to the hospital.

During the struggle to get the last help again from the county, I learned that an objection was made that I had made such heavy doctor bills—just nearly \$500 had been paid when I had no idea there would be any! I could not believe it until obliged to. Then it almost broke my heart. I have never since had any hope in that way. But that some one would be the way of the world! If a man can blind the public, he will do it. Had I not been receiving help from the county, I never could have got on. Now, when I am able to get about some, take short rides, and take care of my room, I am liable to be "sent up" or into the county home, so at least, a little hope of better days comes. I must have it all taken away. Must put up with my present boarding place, and lack of care (though I food but little), and have any change at all (if agreeable) it would be helpful. Why? Simply because I am poor in pocket! To prevent further bleeding, I have decided, that the physicians select one in each town, generally the lowest bidder, to care for all the outside cases, which usually, are merely temporarily so, for a stipulated sum. Then these poor, no matter how wealthy, must accept this doctor or go without. Here is the working of that plan. If one is an almsman, and the county doctor is a homeopath, they must have him all the same, and "sine vera." In my case at present I should not send for the appointed doctor, no matter how high I wanted to get, but I have a hard place to be in because, when I got ill, I am used to my bed, care is very grudgingly given, so it is necessary for me to be as well as possible. I had a good doctor last year, but he is out of duty now.

I do not know what salary the doctors have, but in this county, in the "Annual Reports," a list is given of those receiving help regularly.

with whom they board and how much they are being or have been paid. (It is so pleasant to have your poverty published three weeks in succession in this way.) The case under review paid the doctors was only about \$100 less than it given to the outside poor for board and care! But in the item of medical care, etc., it is mentioned in this way: "Sundry persons (doctors, of course), medical attendance and medicines"—and total amount given—no names or amounts given. Why? Dividing the amount by the number of towns the amount is between \$600 and \$700, a nice little bit, especially to one who has no other practice. There is no disgrace in being poor, when one has done her best, as I, and many other have, but when money can be appropriated for so many things, so freely, and public officers can have such fine times at public expense, and money paid, as in some cases, unjustly, in person. It does seem unjust that the Lord's poor should be held in such hard and bitter bondage in our country, and that the Christian civilization in our world, should be so backward. How long, O Lord, shall these things be?

Knowing my peculiar circumstances, a distinguished surgeon said he thought it my duty to my friends, to have a surgical operation from which I have not the slightest hope of recovery. He said he would operate if I desired and my friends approved—but my chances were so small he would not advise it, unless I would have my heart set on it. He said, "If it is right for me to have this done when I have absolutely no hope of a successful result? Is it my duty? Is it selfish?" What would you do or say? If you wish to answer personally write addressing "The Spout," care of The Tribune, Scranton, Pa. This receipt of one case is not only for advice, but with the hope that many hearts may be moved. First, to urge a modification of the existing law in regard to the care of the poor so that life will not be made quite so hard and to take an account of the poor who are made. And, further, that some one, or more people of wealth, may be induced to build homes for just such cases as these, who have no "open door" but the county home, to build, or open, a veritable "House of Refuge" for the Lord's weary pilgrims. How many would take even one into their homes, who have no other place to go, but the county home, to build, or open, a veritable "House of Refuge" for the Lord's weary pilgrims. How many would take even one into their homes, who have no other place to go, but the county home, to build, or open, a veritable "House of Refuge" for the Lord's weary pilgrims.

Regular Helen Gould, who has always been a good housewife, has taken to the bicycle as a regular means of exercise and thus long distances between her home and the city.

G. F. Sever has been appointed as superintendent of the electric school at the Buffalo Exposition. Mr. Sever is an electrician of national fame, and for seven years has lectured at Columbia university.

Within the past three weeks Congressman William Astor Chandler, of New York, says he has been mistaken for W. J. Bryan nearly a dozen times. The resemblance is merely in the face, the two men differing very differently.

General Ian Hamilton, who has command of the newly formed Colonial Division in South Africa, is a Wellington college man, and still well on the fighting side of 20. He joined the Gordon Highlanders in 1872 and distinguished himself in the Afghan campaign of 1879-80.

Methodism, as a church, has a few peculiarities, and among those peculiarities this prohibitive rule against partaking of amusements which cannot be taken in the name of the Lord. With necessary exceptions, it has steadily progressed until it has outstripped every other denomination in gathering adherents to the doctrines preached. Only in the few years of the very recent past has the violation of these prohibitive restrictions been encouraged by any of our prominent ministers, and these years also have marked a falling off in the net gain to the membership of the church. Indeed, if it were not for the large number of accessions made to the church in our foreign fields, especially in India, the Methodist church would show a large decrease in membership. The discussion of the subject has been by parties outside of the church or by those who favor the removal of the restrictions against certain questionable amusements. Those who favor the retention of the restrictions have chosen to remain silent, knowing that they are the majority of the spiritual working force of the church.

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The average man needs no argument on our part to convince him that the public dance hall is sought by the illiterate and the scartest woman. He knows it. Not all who dance are led, by no means. But because it borders on the precipice of moral ruin to the young woman, our church would not be a party to the dance hall in any of its forms and would endeavor to its members to forego what little pleasure they derive from dancing that those who are weak may not be misled by their example, and unaccountably fall a prey to the destroyer of virtue. As to theater-going, Shakespeare is always trotted out as an excuse, but at the average theatrical performance there is something of a "street out" which causes modesty to blush. We are old time and again that "customs change" and so discipline must be flexible. Well, so be it. Customs have changed and we have an object lesson just now before us in the picture presented by the morals of the officials and some of the men who are connected with our city government. If reports contain any particle of truth, formerly it was the custom to be straightforward in the discharge of public duties and the dishonest official was regarded as a criminal. Now, if reports contain any particle of truth, formerly it was the custom to be straightforward in the discharge of public duties and the dishonest official was regarded as a criminal. Now, if reports contain any particle of truth, formerly it was the custom to be straightforward in the discharge of public duties and the dishonest official was regarded as a criminal.

The church appeals to men to honor their

PERSONALITIES.

General Cronje appears to be thriving in exile. Since his surrender he has gained thirty pounds of the forty he lost in his recent campaign.

The literary proclivities of King Oscar, of Sweden and Norway, led him to call on Henry James and Swinburne while in London recently.

J. F. Rhodes, the historian, was once a clerk in Senator Hanna's firm in Cleveland, and it was at Mr. Hanna's advice that he took up writing.

Yours for the disciplines as it is. F. P. Doty.

THE AMUSEMENT QUESTION.

Editor of The Tribune—

Sir: The attitude of the Methodist Episcopal church on the amusement question has been discussed by the public very frequently since the meeting of the delegates in general conference on May 2nd in Chicago. Thus far, as near as I can ascertain, the discussion of the subject has been by parties outside of the church or by those who favor the removal of the restrictions against certain questionable amusements. Those who favor the retention of the restrictions have chosen to remain silent, knowing that they are the majority of the spiritual working force of the church.

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Healthy men don't commit suicide. The man who takes his own life is the man whose nerves are on edge—whose brain is worn out with overwork and worry—whose bad digestion makes him morbid and melancholy. A man can commit suicide in more ways than one. He can let sickness kill him. If he is losing vitality he can let it go on till he dies—it won't be long. Many men hesitate to take medicine. They forget that sickness merely shows the body's need for some material that is lacking in the food. The right medicine supplies this want. In nine cases out of ten Ripans Tablets are the right medicine. They help to digest what is eaten and assist in the assimilation of it. They soothe the nerves and make them strong and steady. They purify the blood and fill with vitalizing properties. They are the great and infallible medicine for men and women whose nerves are out of order, who are losing flesh, losing sleep, losing vitality. They bring back health and strength. The ingredients of Ripans Tablets have been used by physicians for a hundred years and have a record of thousands of cures for every year—a record unapproached by any other medicine in the world. It is only in the present century, however, that it has been possible to obtain this medicine in the present convenient and portable form which makes it so easy to be taken and so capable of being kept for months or years with qualities unimpaired. A new style packet containing ten Ripans Tablets in a paper carton (without glass) is now for sale at 50c per dozen. Price of the present carton (with glass) is \$1.00 per dozen. For more information, send for a copy of the present carton (with glass) to the Lippincott Company, 300, N. Second Street, New York—on a single centon (see transaction) will be sent for one cent.

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