The Scranton Tribune

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

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TEN PAGES.

SCRANTON, MAY 15, 1901.

It is safe to wager that what school pupils learn in school on circus day is not long remembered.

The Guthrie Bill.

WHAT is known as the Guthrie primary election bill is expected to come before the legislature for action this week. It proposes an Australian ballot for the primaries, a direct vote of all parties on one day, no conventions except for the state at large, the same restrictions governing the primaries as now govern the general elections, and severe penalties for fraud or corruption.

The bill is non-partisan and is deserving of consideration on its merits. If direct primaries are advisable at all they certainly are most advisable when held uniformly throughout the state on a fixed day, with all parties participating and with all the safeguards of a general election. This, it is true, amounts to two elections every campaign and assumes that in the composition of party tickets the advice and guidance of wise leaders to insure equitable apportionment of representation is less to be preferred than the mere preponderance of numbers. Such an assumption is common, although we are not prepared to say it is wise for every community, however it may be justified in special localities.

A trial of the Guthrie primary bill could do no harm, and it might work to the public's advantage. For that reason there are many who think the legislature ought to pass it.

It is rumored that some of the Pan-American hotel keepers are already acting as though they were in possession of a large block of Northern Pacific.

A Judge with Common Sense.

IN THE Columbia Law Review for May Judge Coxe, of the United States courts, has an interesting paper analyzing and criticising our jury system—not so much with regard to fundamentals as in reference to details. For example:

The work of selecting juries is too tedious, he thinks. The minute and prolix examination indulged in by counsel, always personal and often impertinent, is not conducive to good results. In England the ablest counsel generally accept jurors without a word. It is to be assumed and should be true that men summoned to serve as jurors will be fit and fair.

Again, in the majority of civil causes Judge Coxe thinks that trial by jury is an exceedingly cumbersome and inefficient method of reaching a result. Causes involving commercial transactions, expert knowledge, careful mathematical calculations, or the consideration of long and intricate accounts, and many others likewise technical in character would, in his judgment, much better be decided by a trained legal mind than by a jury. In his own experience he has sat for weeks and months in the United States circuit court with a jury where the questions in issue were of such a nature that by no possibility could any of them reach the jury, and yet the court was powerless to dispense with the jurors' services. Bankers, merchants, manufacturers, active men in many vocations were compelled to sit as idle listeners merely to hear verdict after verdict directed by the court. Counsel on both sides agreed that no disputed question of fact could arise and yet declined to dispense with the jury in order that no question as to the regularity of the proceeding might be raised on appeal. And so the dreary farce went on, the court endeavoring to prevent open insubordination from irritated and persistent jurymen, recognizing, meanwhile, the absurdity of the proceeding and the justice of their plea for release. "I believe," adds Judge Coxe, "it is a mistake to think that there would be any general regret were jury trials abolished in the class of civil causes to which I have alluded."

Another fault is the opportunity presented to one dishonest, stubborn or stupid man to tie up a jury, thus nullifying the work and expense of months of arduous preparation for trial. "In almost every instance it will appear," says the judge, "that it is a single juror who either will not or can not understand the arguments of the other eleven. Debate soon degenerates into denunciation, the majority do not attempt to conceal their contempt and the isolated one enters into a state of intellectual coma, where no persuasion can reach him. Were the law amended so that nine or ten jurors after a certain number of hours (let us say four or five) could, with the approval of the court, render a verdict, disagreements would rarely be recorded."

Judge Coxe thinks that jury presentments might be restricted to the more aggravated offenses, felonies and the like, without the slightest danger to our liberties, and he asks: "Can anything be more absurd than the summoning of twenty-three men from their vocations and organizing them with pomp and ceremony into a dignified body to hear the testimony and pass upon the momentous question whether the defendant shall be presented for trial upon the charge of depositing an obscene postal card in the mails? To bring the machinery of a grand jury to bear upon such attenuated sins is like using one of Carnegie's steam hammers to crack the hazel nut."

Then, too, the trend of the times has been toward inordinate appeals. On this subject the judge remarks:

"Instead of simplifying legal procedure, the tendency is more and more to complicate it and to make the disposition of an ordinary lawsuit so expensive and interminable that none but the boldest combatants dare enter the lists. The last decision in a cause may be right, but it is not right solely because it is the last. When the epidemic of motions, appeals, new trials and mis-trials through which every contested cause must now pass has become intolerable, a system will be devised which will give to every litigant one fair and speedy trial and one appeal. When this day arrives men will wonder how they staggered on under their present burden. One can hardly overestimate the beneficial results that would follow if all the codes and code abominations were dumped into the sea and a new system of procedure were organized under the single watchword, Simplicity. More modern machinery and less of it, able engineers and fewer of them, is what the needs of the age demand."

These exceptions and suggestions all impress us as being well taken. If there were among the makers and interpreters of the law a real desire to promote justice with economy and to substitute common sense operations for flubdubbery and chicanery, ways could readily be found. The reason why reforms in the law are so few and rare is because those who want them are not half as active and persistent in seeking them as are those in opposition whose bread is buttered on the side of making the law expensive.

The announcement that the Chinese plenipotentiaries are astonished at the amount of indemnity asked by the powers in connection with the settlement of the Pekin troubles comes in the nature of a revelation. China's past experience with the Christian nations ought to have fortified her against being surprised at anything.

School Reform in Two Cities.

RECENTLY, in the series of papers in which this paper has been endeavoring to awaken public interest in the many improvements needed in our public school system, especially that of eliminating the written examination fad, which is the usual corollary of the memory-cramming method, we alluded to the Rochester, N. Y., school board having done away with one grade out of nine that intervened there between kindergarten and high school work.

In that, it brought itself simply into line with this, among other cities. A few places have come down to seven, with results quite as good. But Rochester has taken, in other school directions, various steps of progress quite beyond us; and, as some of our readers doubtless know, these have been largely the result of the intelligent campaign for school improvement by the Woman's Educational and Industrial union, of that city. We cannot touch in one day on all the varied lines of work the union has carried on for the schools of that city, but a few of them are indicated in two or three paragraphs from one of the reports presented at its seventh annual meeting one day last week. The secretary of the educational committee spoke first of the changes which have taken place since they had commenced the school work. The Democrat and Chronicle quotes thus from the report:

"Some of the changes that have taken place seem miraculous. Those dreadful annexes, notorious throughout the state, where are they? All gone in a year. The experiment in half-day sessions, tried by Dr. Dow so successfully at No. 25, have become universal. The bete noir of a high school dhow we have anathematized it seems to be conquered without an earthquake. Those senseless examinations and that endless writing have been eliminated, and now we are told, and we hail it with gladness, that one whole year is to be reclaimed to the child from the waste between the kindergarten and the high school.

"The work of our new school board is above praise. Their educational grasp, their financial ability, their executive power, and their wonderful skill in dealing with difficult problems, have aroused the enthusiasm of the entire city. And the value of the right woman on the school board has been proved for all time. That this woman who has done so much is our beloved president, is a matter of great pride and glory to the Woman's Union. The work has been arduous and wearing, but we trust that it will not be so hard in the future, and it behooves every member of the union, and all public-spirited citizens, to see that the present board is re-elected in the fall, to continue the work so splendidly inaugurated."

Rochester is to be congratulated on having such a new school board, and on its having been put into office largely by the wisely directed efforts of women—whose recognized duty it ought to be everywhere to work, directly and steadfastly, for school improvement. The indication in the secretary's report that in one city at least they have been able to counteract to some extent "the political pull" is an exceedingly pleasant thing to hear of. But the special bit of improvement spoken of that we desire to call attention to to-day is that referred to in the sentence: "Those senseless examinations and that endless writing have been eliminated."

Our readers know that Philadelphia's Board of Education has decided hereafter to promote pupils by the term records and the teachers' judgment, eliminating the written examination fetish. Brooklyn some years ago did away with that same fetish, its injustices to pupils, its grinding exactions in "papers-marking" by teachers. It is but a few days ago that the eminently satisfactory results of the term records plan was dwelt upon to The Tribune by one of the most intelligent women of Scranton, who has in the last few years spent much time in Brooklyn. It is a coincidence to be noted that the principal for many years of one of the largest schools in Brooklyn, the man to whose initiative the present Brooklyn method of promotions is due, holds now the leadership of one of the departments of the great International Correspondence Schools in which Scranton takes just pride.

The Message to Garcia.

THE RECENT lecture of Elbert Hubbard recalls his famous pamphlet, "A Message to Garcia," which is an address by Mr. Hubbard to the young men of the country and has been very widely read. Mr. Hubbard uses the incident of Lieutenant Rowan's mission to General Garcia as his text. President McKinley found it necessary during the early Spanish complications to communicate with General Garcia, and Rowan was suggested as the man who could carry the message. How well and how promptly he did his work, overcoming well nigh insurmountable difficulties, won the admiration and gratitude of all Americans.

In his pamphlet, Mr. Hubbard deplores the lack of young men in business, who when called upon to "carry a message to Garcia," can, without hesitation, and without question, sail in and, regardless of obstacles, accomplish their task. And the opinion is held by many that the average young man is a shirker, incompetent and a grumbler when called upon for extra effort. Of course, this is true, to some extent, but to a person acquainted with the American boy and his achievements, it seems like an injustice. While this kind of talk is calculated to keep down the swelled head, a little of the opposite kind will do no harm. All employers are not like the Carnegie Steel company in encouraging young men, but the average employer will find if he is careful in the selection of his employes in the first place, that when the time comes where he must needs send "a message to Garcia," among his employes there will be, not many perhaps, but surely some bright young American who will fill the bill.

There is no young man on earth so ambitious as the young American. He is a hustler, with staying qualities; he works overtime and often half-starves to fit himself for his chosen sphere in life, and to accomplish his plans.

The fact that Mr. Hubbard has found over two hundred and fifty unskilled young people in East Aurora, and has been able to train them to do the fine work required in the Roycroft shop, proves the contrary of his theory. Our colleges are filled with young men striving intelligently to fit themselves to carry the message; the International Correspondence schools in this city have nearly fifty thousand young American workers enrolled as students, and in nearly every city of any size in the country there is a thriving business college. And this is not only true of the American young man, but also of his sister, "the American girl."

If Mr. Hubbard, or any one else, has a message he would like to send to Garcia, we can easily compile a list of Scranton young men who will take it. Incidentally, we have several such youngsters on the staff of The Tribune.

Outline Studies of Human Nature

A Kiss Won the Election.

THE sensational report telling of the treasure of the long-lost portrait of the Duchess of Devonshire has reminded some of those who met Lord Dufferin when he was in New York a few years ago, a guest of the St. Andrew's society, and a neighbor at the banquet table of Joseph H. Choate, of some delightful anecdotes which he told of his grandmother who was a sister of Duchess of Devonshire, writes Holland in the Philadelphia Press.

The sisters inherited their father's fondness for politics and were of no little influence in the political life of Great Britain of their time. The Duchess of Devonshire at one general election was very anxious that Charles James Fox should be returned to Parliament. The contest was exceedingly bitter and promised to be very close. A minister in which the England was intensely interested was at stake. The Duchess started forth herself upon an electioneering trip, pleading with every one she knew who had a vote or influence to give it to Fox. There was a butcher in one of the smaller boroughs of the district which Fox sought to represent who had supplied meat at the country residence of the Duke and Duchess.

The Duchess, who was a born aristocrat, could, nevertheless, be in politics an ultra democrat. She sought this butcher, knowing that he had not only his vote, but, as we say today, controlled a half a dozen more. She pleaded with him to support Fox, although she knew the butcher was of the other party. The meat seller was flattered by her attention, and yet he knew the value of his vote and influence, and at last he said:

"I will make a bargain with you. I'll plump for Fox and make my friends do it, provided you'll give me a kiss."

The Duchess looked at the butcher for an instant and then before he knew that his offer was accepted, she smacked him full upon the lips, and then said:

"Now, I've paid the price; you must keep your promise."

He was as good as his word, and delivered six or eight votes to Fox which, but for this pleading, would have gone to the opposition, and they saved the day for Fox. He was elected by a majority of three.

Took Editor at His Word.

"MEN ON NEWSPAPERS often have peculiar experiences," said W. A. Fairchild, of Chicago, to a writer in the New York Tribune, "and such a one befell a friend of mine some time ago. The friend in question was city editor of a great daily, and in the course of his manifold duties it fell to his lot to take to task one of his reporters. The reporter in question was an Englishman, slow of thought and action and miserly of speech. Through the tirade to which he was subjected he said nothing, and when it finally ended he left the presence of his superior without any comment. But, as the result proved, he did some tall thinking.

"City editors when 'riled,' as is well known, are not particularly choice or economical in the language they bestow on their unfortunate reporters, and among other things the Englishman had been told that he was no better than an fact, was a crazy man, and that his proper habitat was a lunatic asylum and not the full bedroom of a Chicago booming house which he occupied. The Englishman took this part of the city editor's remarks as his text and acted upon them. He promptly went to an asylum, had himself thoroughly examined by three or four alienists and secured from them an official certificate to the fact that he was sane. With this he appeared at the office of his paper the next day, and entering at the city editor's sanctum, he slapped it down before his astonished and dismayed superior.

"'Now, you go and get one,' was his only comment, and for once that city editor capitulated."

Witticisms of Barrymore.

MAURICE BARRYMORE, whose misfortunes have been a source of deep regret to his host of friends, was one of the wittiest of men and many of his bright sayings have been widely quoted, relates the New York World. He possessed an unusual degree of personal magnetism. His humor was always genial. He laughed with friends, and not at them. His stories and comments lacked the personal sting which makes most wits hated and feared by their victims.

One of the best stories related recently was his reply to Steele Mackaye, the dramatist, who told him he lacked a great sorrow and a thrilling experience to make him a finished actor.

"Write a play for me, Steele," replied Barrymore, "and I shall get both."

In the Players' club there is a painting called "summer" which has been harshly criticised. One night Barrymore and his cronies at the club were discussing the prodigality of actors and the meanness of the summer season, when the theaters are closed. Barrymore, who spent his earnings lavishly, listened in silence for several minutes, and then said:

"Why don't you save your money, like me? But, cheer up, boys; summer is not half as bad as it is painted."

He Wanted to Know.

JUSTICE HARLAN, of the United States Supreme court is an enthusiastic golfer. The other day he stood waiting for a car to the Chevy Chase golf links, with his bag of clubs under his arm, relates a Washington correspondent. A venerable darkey of the "uncle" variety was much interested. He looked the justice over and examined the bag and clubs intently. It was evident that he could not make out just what the thing was, so after some hesitation he pitched up to the justice and asked: "If yo' please, boss, what yo' got dar. Is it a fiddle or a base viol?"

GREEDY HOTELKEEPERS.

From the Philadelphia Press.

While Buffalo deserves great praise for the Pan-American Exposition it may easily forfeit it by attempting to defend extortion on the part of its hotels. The Press is led to make this observation because one of our Buffalo contemporaries resents a criticism by a New York newspaper on the increase in rates by certain of the Buffalo hotels. Such defense is very short-sighted. The increase in rates by the hotels is the quickest way to injure the exposition.

One of the best known and the largest of the Buffalo hostelries, which is conducted on the European plan, has put up its rates to a point where a room with bath for a single person cannot be had for less than $5 a day, exclusive of meals, and a charge of $1 a day is made for a very ordinary room without bath. The prices in the cafe of the hotel are such that $5 a day is about the lowest rate for which any person can live at that hotel. It is understood that others of the hotels have raised their rates in proportion. There is no excuse for such extortion. The railroads are expected to reduce their rates, and have done so to the extent of about one-half. But the greedy hotel proprietors take the very opposite course of putting up their rates. While that may not be the case with all of the hotels it is the case with some of them, as the Press knows from the experience of its correspondents. Buffalo newspapers cannot afford to defend such extortion.

There is no crowd at Buffalo yet. But a month hence, when the Exposition is in good order, there will no doubt be crowds of people there, providing they are not scared away by greedy hotel keepers. It is gratifying to know that the Exposition management has no sympathy with those hotel men. The bureau of information of the Exposition proposed a circular giving a list of private houses where accommodations can be had at reasonable rates. Investigation by the men who make a business of hunting up such accommodations for visitors laid an ax to dignified meeting and sought to have the circular suppressed. Director General Buchanan wisely refused to comply with the request. If he can find some way to circumvent the greedy hotel keepers he will add to the laurels he has already won in directing the work of so praiseworthy an Exposition.

Expensive Furniture.....

There are two kinds of expensive furniture—

First—The kind that is purchased at a higher price than it is really worth.

Second—The kind that's made out of costly and rare woods, beautifully carved, and upon which no expense is spared in its construction and finish.

The latter is classed as "expensive" because it costs more than the ordinary, and there is an impression that such furniture cannot be bought anywhere short of New York.

We have Bedroom Suits, Sideboards, Dining Room Tables, Parlor Suits, Library Tables and all the smaller articles that go with them, of the very highest grade, elaborately carved and highly finished.

Look them over before your next trip to the city.

Hill & Connell

121 N. Washington Avenue.

A Second-Class City with a First-Class Stock of

Cut Glass, Sterling Silverware Clocks, Etc.

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Mercereau & Connell,

132 Wyoming Avenue.

THE TRIBUNE'S

EDUCATIONAL CONTEST

$3,000 in Special Rewards.

THE SCRANTON TRIBUNE has inaugurated its second Educational Contest which, like the first, is open to every ambitious person, not only in Scranton, but throughout Lackawanna and other counties in Northeastern Pennsylvania. This contest will be even greater in magnitude than its predecessor, embracing special rewards of the very highest character, and will be carried out in strict accordance with the rules of fairness and justice.

The first contest, which occupied the attention of our readers from July to October of last year, met with such encouragement and was so successful in every way that it has been decided to repeat it.

This year the special rewards are limited to those of an educational character, eight scholarships being offered to the very best educational institutions in the state.

The Special Rewards.

Scholarship in Lafayette College	$1,000
Scholarship in Swarthmore College	1,000
Scholarship in Stroudsburg Normal School	675
Three Scholarships in Scranton Business College, $60 Each	180
Two Scholarships in Scranton Conservatory of Music, $75 Each	150
	$3,005

Each contestant failing to secure one of these special rewards will be given ten (10) per cent. of all the money he or she turns in.

N. B. The first two scholarships do not include meals, but the contestants securing these will be given ten (10) per cent. of all the money he or she turns in to The Tribune, to assist in paying this expense.

Rules of the Contest.

The special rewards will be given to the persons securing the largest number of points.

Points will be credited to contestants securing new subscribers to The Scranton Tribune as follows:

	Points
One Month's Subscription	50
Three Months' Subscription	150
Six Months' Subscription	350
One Year's Subscription	1,000

The contestant with the highest number of points will be given a choice from the list of special rewards; the contestant with the second highest number of points will be given a choice of the remaining rewards, and so on through the list.

Each contestant failing to secure a special reward, and also those who select the first two scholarships, will be given ten per cent. of all money he or she turns in.

All subscriptions must be paid in advance. Only new subscribers will be counted.

Renewals by persons whose names were on our subscription list prior to May 15 will not be credited. The Tribune will investigate each subscription and if found irregular in any way reserves the right to reject it.

No transfer can be made after credit has once been given.

All subscriptions, and the cash to pay for same, must be handed in at The Tribune office within the week in which they are secured, so that papers may be sent to the subscribers at once.

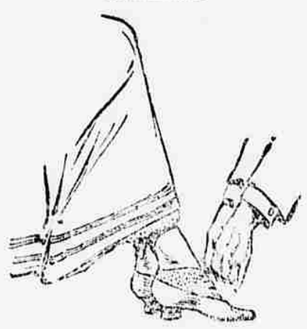
Subscriptions must be written on blanks, which can be secured at The Tribune office, or will be sent by mail.

The contest will close promptly at 5 o'clock Saturday evening, August 31, 1901.

Full particulars will be furnished all interested, including a list of the winners last year with the number of points they secured.

Address EDITOR EDUCATIONAL CONTEST,
Tribune, Scranton, Pa.

ALWAYS BUSY.



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Low in cut. Low in price. High in quality. Ladies' from 75c up. Gentlemen's from $1.25 up.

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People's Bank,

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Capital Stock, $100,000
Surplus, - - - 25,000

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FINLEY'S

Children's Outfitting Department

Jackets, Dresses, Hats, Bonnets, Etc.

It is a natural instinct for mothers to want their children dressed bewitchingly and pretty. With this aim in view, she is always on the alert for "things beautiful" for the adornment of her darlings—possibly a new jacket, hat or bonnet. This is where the characteristic feature of our store comes in. She knows our goods have a certain tone and style about them not found elsewhere.

Pique Jackets

We are showing a complete line of these Jackets, in short and the new three-quarter length, Raglan or box coat, in sizes from one to six years.

Infants' Jackets

In cashmere flannel and crocheted.

In great variety of styles—silk, lawn, mull, pique, etc., ranging in price from $1.00 to $5.00.

Children's Sun Hats, in all colors, at 50c.

Small Boys' Leghorn and Lawn Hats.

Children's Lawn Bonnets, dainty corded French Bonnets and Sun Bonnets, fancy trimmed.

Children's Dresses

Finest line of long and short dresses, with lace and embroidery trimming. Empire dresses, with low neck and short sleeves.

Children's Underwear

Full line of Muslin Underwear in all grades. Night Gowns, Drawers, Short and Long Skirts at popular prices.

Underwaists

The Fern's, H. & W., Ideal and Nazareth.

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GOLDEN GATE DINING ROOMS.
Best 25 cent meal in the city.
Five Meal Tickets, $1.00.
Sunday dinner a specialty. Home-made Pastry.
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All the new shapes for Spring. Styles are now on. New Hats Made To Order.

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