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 subejct to editorial revision.

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SCRANTON, JANUARY 9, 1902.

In spite of the efforts of yellow papers and labor agitators, Porto Rico seems to have entered upon a season of peace and prosperity that bids fair to be lasting.

Roosevelt and Schley.

ALTHOUGH in the event that the president, after a careful review of the legal points in the Schley inquiry by the department of justice, should sustain the original finding there would be no reason to expect that he would not be as heavily plastered with detraction by Schley's friends as those of Schley's brother officers have been who, after an open hearing, have conscientiously rendered their judgment, he has, it seems, consented to order such a review to be made, thus once more throwing open a controversy that should long ago have been closed.

In so doing the president has acted against the advice of many of his best advisers. Yet if in his judgment there is the slightest shade of doubt as to the justice of the verdict, it were better that he should give Schley the benefit of it and exhaust the possibilities of inquiry than that the public should suspect his administration of bias. He is a student of naval subjects, a former assistant secretary of the navy and a man whose sense of fair play will hardly be questioned by more than a small number of the people. He knows the bureau chiefs who are accused of having engineered a "set up" against Schley; he knows most of the officers whose testimony figured in the inquiry; and he knows both Sampson and Schley. When he shall have reached a conclusion in this matter it will be final and there will be no power in the government strong enough to overturn it, and no considerable force in public opinion desirous of further prolonging the deplorable quarrel.

Those who argue that taking this step will injure President Roosevelt politically overlook that the secret of his hold upon public confidence is in the courage he has shown in the performance of what in every sphere of his official activities has seemed to him to be his duty. As commander-in-chief of the army and navy he is the high court of last appeal in matters both military and naval; and it is fair that no appellant who has the shadow of a ground for an appeal should be denied a hearing. Having asked for such a hearing, Schley has been granted it and must abide its outcome. There is no doubt in our mind as to what that outcome will be.

Liberty Bell receives as much homage on its tour through the South as the candidate who can make a rear car platform speech.

Protection Against Panics.

A NEW banking bill just introduced by Representative Pugsley of New York is likely to attract considerable attention by reason of the novel method it employs to protect and support commercial credit in times of stringency.

Its central feature is the proposition that a general clearing house for all banks, both national and state, be authorized and legally safeguarded in each state. Through this clearing house each bank in the association would be authorized to issue certificates of credit to the extent of 75 per cent. of its capitalization, these certificates to be printed under the supervision of the controller of the currency and to be duly certified by him.

"By this system," says the Washington correspondent of the New York Tribune, "different functions are bestowed on clearing houses than can be safely possessed by commercial banks. Clearing houses are one remove further away from the business community, with their urgent appeals, than are popular banks, and their action, therefore, would be more conservative in the important matter of the issue of currency. At the same time they are so closely connected with commercial banks that they can be appealed to and make instant response in case of need. It is contended that by the incorporation of clearing houses under a federal law with these special functions, a banking system is constituted that is co-operative instead of competitive, expansive in case of need instead of restrictive, and forced liquidation and panic are avoided. The clearing houses of the country would thus be brought into the closest relations with all commercial banks, and those relations would be strictly defined by law, which is not now the case. This union of higher and lower financial institutions under the supervision of the federal government would constitute a true national banking system. It is believed that the system would result in sustaining and protecting commercial credit even under the severest strain."

In a sense, this measure is in the direction of the recent suggestion of Secretary Gage that banks be permitted to federate for mutual support. There can be little doubt that this will be the ultimate solution of the problem, which now is unsatisfactory by reason of the lack of facilities for promptly relieving stringency in credit in a time of panic. But it is likely to be some time before public opinion will be in a temper to tolerate the suggestion of asset currency unsupported by government-held collateral.

A decision of court in Chicago holds that the charge of $175 a year for telephone service exacted in that city contrary to the city ordinance, which limits the charge to $125, is excessive and unlawful and need not be paid. Thanks largely to Scranton enterprise, even $125 a year for 'phone service need not long be paid by the people of Chicago. The new company, in which local capital is interested, expects to give good service and earn a fair profit at a charge not to exceed $85 a year.

An Admirable Pension Plan.

DETAILS of the pension plan recently announced by the American Steel and Wire company have been received. They are more liberal than appeared in the earlier dispatches. They constitute a notable forward step in the development of more harmonious relations between employers and employes.

All who have been in the employ of the company for ten years continuously are eligible to its benefits. All employes who have attained the age of 65 years are to be retired, though an employe 65 years of age can obtain permission through recommendation of the manager to continue for a longer service. By continuous service is meant service not interrupted at any one time for more than six months. Those who are discharged from the service of the company for cause or who voluntarily leave its employ and subsequently return, after an interval exceeding six months, have no part in the pension system.

The pension allowances are upon the following basis: For each year of service an allowance of one per cent. of the average monthly pay received for the ten years preceding retirement is made. To illustrate: If an employe has been in the service of the company for forty years and has received on an average for the last ten years $50 a month regular wages, his pension allowance would be forty per cent. of $50, or $20 a month. Once allowed, the pension is for life except when forfeited for gross misbehavior. In one point this pension system is more liberal than many hitherto devised. It allows the pensioner to engage in any other enterprise "differing distinctly in character and scope from his former employment" without penalty of forfeiture. Pensions are non-assignable and are payable to the beneficiary or to his duly qualified agent only.

A correlative feature is that no inexperienced person over thirty-five years, and no experienced person over forty-five years of age is hereafter to be taken into the service of the company. Persons beyond such age limit may be taken into the company's service temporarily, but shall have no claim to pension. With the approval of the board which is to administer the pension plan persons may be employed indefinitely, irrespective of age limit, if the services required are professional or otherwise special in their nature. The company is at pains to make clear that the entire project is a voluntary concession on its part and not a contract binding it to keep objectionable men in its employ, or establishing legal claims which would interfere with the efficient conduct of its business.

Altogether more than 20,000 men will benefit by this move; men many of whom are working along from day to day without making provision for the inevitable "rainy day." It might be argued that it is not the place of the employer to exercise in the behalf of the employe that foresight which he is unwilling to exercise for himself. But this is an unkind argument. It may well be counted a judicious part of the employer's concern to provide a fund offsetting the wear and tear of his labor, similar to the charge made for depreciation of plant. Nothing, in our judgment, is more certain than that in the next decade great advances will be made in the direction of humanizing the industry of our country.

As soon as President Roosevelt's opinion has been filed, the Schley case ought to be adjourned sine die.

An Experiment That Pays.

OUT IN Pittsburg is an establishment known throughout the world — Heinz's pickle plant. It is a monument to honest dealing, intelligent advertising and liberal treatment of employes. The other day in Pittsburg a convention was held of the many hundred hustling men employed throughout the civilized world to make known the virtues of Heinz's pickles; and in a speech before this gathering Howard C. Heinz, a member of the firm, told something about how he and his colleagues get along with their employes.

Twenty-five years ago, when the firm was a good deal poorer than it is today, it established the custom of giving a present to every employe on Christmas day. While not in itself a great matter, it was indicative of a kindly feeling which has developed with the passing years. Since then sewing and cooking classes have been formed, the firm supplying the equipment and teachers and the employes wishing instruction furnishing their own material. In the men's dining room a cook and manager are supplied at actual cost; in the girls' dining room coffee is furnished at cost, while the profit from the other articles of food sold is turned over to a beneficial fund; dressing rooms and neat uniforms are provided for all the employes; an annual outing in some pleasant grove is given to all; in the summer a wagonette is furnished to take the girls for drives in the parks; roof gardens with awnings have been established; lectures are given during the lunch hour, and entertainments and socials are provided during the week.

In other words, while nothing has been done to weaken the self-respect of the employes, everything within reason has been done to make the conditions and surroundings of employment as pleasant and attractive as possible. The firm evidently believes that money and time devoted to developing feelings of mutual good will between itself and its employes are not wasted. On the contrary, the testimony of Mr. Heinz is that a direct benefit in more willing service can be traced from these efforts of the firm to prove that it looks upon its employes with the eye of friendly interest.

When wild-eyed labor agitation shall generally have given place to intelligent leadership of the working hosts, this kind of relationship between employers and the employed will not be uncommon in this country. On the contrary, it will be uncommon for an employer to be indifferent to the just interests of his employes, as it will be uncommon for those who earn their bread in an employer's mine, mill or shop to feel that it is the proper thing to plan how to make it as difficult as possible for him to conduct his business at a profit.

Because Dr. Schaeffer, the state superintendent of public instruction, in his report for 1901 speaks commendingly of State Treasurer Barnett for his prompt payment among the various districts of the state school appropriation, the Wanamaker family organ intimates that the doctor is crooked. That is Wanamakerism for you.

The Tribune acknowledges its receipt, through the courtesy of Major Isaac B. Brown, now deputy secretary of internal affairs and likely, it is believed, soon to become chief of that department, of a copy of the official railway map of Pennsylvania, a document valuable for reference purposes.

The chaplain of the senate the other day broke all precedents by praying for the newspaper correspondents. Some of them need it.

Officials of the old reliable "Pennsy" stop counting dividends long enough to annex a small railroad or two every few days.

The spectacular exhibition at the gates of the Forbidden City certainly had a well organized chorus.

CONDUCTOR'S FUNNY STORY.

"I reckon you'd be interested in a good joke 'bout Robert Burns," said the conductor of the trolley car. "It's a brand new story which I—(Hold on there till the car stops, won't you? Some o' these fool people who ride on street cars don't know enough to carry hay to a blind horse!) Well, talkin' 'bout Burns—one day he was seated in a tavern when—(Turner's alley! Stand out the way, please, and let the lady pass!) Well, as I was a-saying', this Robert Burns, the poet, was havin' a good time in the tavern, and was just about to—(Look out, there! That durned trolley's off again! Smith street!) Robert Burns, seated in the same tavern I was talkin' 'bout, suddenly heard—(Just look at that nigger crowdin' up there where he knows he has no business! Easy street! All off for Easy!)"

"I get off here," I said: "I'll have to hear the rest of that Burns story some other time."

Next morning I waylaid his car.

"It's in there," he said, handing me a letter. "It's the only way I could finish it. A literary man don't stand no show at all on a trolley car!"—Atlanta Constitution.

HIS HUMBLE BEGINNING.

There is a certain great man here in town who hates nothing quite so much as answering personal questions. He dined out on one recent occasion, and the guest of honor was an Englishwoman who is filled with the keenest and most ingeniously expressed interest in American and Americans.

"I find you perfectly wonderful over here," said she between the salad and the dessert. "The lives of your prominent men read like romances. Your poor boys grow up to be millionaires and your great men have had the most extraordinary beginnings. One of your presidents, I am told, was actually a butcher, and the father of a newly-made French princess was a tailor. Now you, Mr. Blank," turning smilingly to the great man at her elbow, "I am sure your history must be most interesting. Do please tell me, at what did you begin life?"

The great man stared at her in disapproval.

"Madam," he said, "I began life as a baby."—Washington Post.

AN INTEMPERATE TOWN.

At the distribution of prizes at the National French Society of Temperance, Dr. Philibert, speaking of the ravages of alcoholism in France, mentioned that in a village of 1,222 inhabitants in Brittany there were 11 public houses. Each inhabitant consumed 60 pints of spirits and 47½ pints of wine, cider and beer. Of every hundred drinks served on a given day—Sunday, October 21 last—21 were eau-de-vie (brandy distilled from cider), 44 brandy, 12 rum, 2 absinthe and the rest beer, wine or cider. The result is that the birth rate is stationary, 50 per cent. of the children die before they are twenty, and barely more than twelve valid conscripts are furnished every year. I may mention that the village of Mailly Maillet, in the department of the Somme, gives points to the doctors in the matter of drinking shops. The village numbers 800 persons, 28 public houses, 2 breweries and 3 distilleries. It is probably a record.—Paris Letter in the London Express.

THE OLD MILL SPRING.

For The Tribune.

Straight up and down, the gray rocks frown;
Between the cliffs the brook doth roar;
With splutter and splash, and gleam and flash,
Out on the bank my waters pour.
When the forest gray stretched far away,
With openings scant and rare;
And the mossy ground gave back no sound
To the tread of wolf and bear;
Ere the beech and oak had felt his stroke,
Or the woodman's ax had heard;
When the only sound the echoes found,
Was the call of beast or bird;
Or the whispering breeze through the leafy trees,
Or the sullen wild brook's noisy flow;
Or the sullen jar of the cataract far,
As it smote the rocks below.
Then came the first to quench his thirst
With my waters cold and clear,
A forest child, an Indian wild,
Chasing the timid deer.
But, oh! the change—how wondrous strange—
Would that Indian hunter ken,
If he could come back to seek the track
Of the red deer up the glen,
Where the verdant wood, in its grandeur stood,
He would find a city vast;
And forge and mill, that never are still;
And the furnace's fiery blast;
And the narrow trail of the iron rail,
Winding along like a snake;
And the hissing steam; and the engine's scream,
And the grind of wheel and brake;
And the noise and hum, that doth ever come
Where busy thousands tread;
The clang of steel and the whirring wheel
And the glow of the fires red;
And the only thing, would be the spring,
Gushing out of the rocks of gray,
That would not be strange or show some change
Since the years that have passed away.
* * * * * * *
And hosts of men have trod the glen,
But none have passed me by
They pause and quaff the sparkling draught
That I to none deny.
Both night and day my waters play,
My voice is never still,
'Mid Summer's glow and Winter's snow,
My mission I fulfill.

—W. E. P.

LIKE THE HERO OF A ROMANTIC NOVEL

THERE died in Chicago the other day, at the age of 88 years, a man who, if half of what is told of him in a sketch in the New York Sun is true, should have figured as the central figure in a "historical" novel. General Thomas Hoyer Munster Munstery was his name, and this, told somewhat disconnectedly, is the sad story of his life:

The general's grandmother, Sophia Ankerstrom, and the rest of the family were driven out of Sweden because Sophia's first cousin killed Gustaf III at a masquerade ball. The Ankerstroms went to Prussia, where Sophia, a famous Swedish beauty, became the morganatic wife of King Frederick William II, according to the papers of the late General Munstery, who always boasted of his Hohenzollern blood. Sophia's daughter by the king was General Munstery's mother. His father was a Danish nobleman whose Irish ancestors had fled from Ireland after the battle of the Boyne. The name before the flight was Munster. The father was deprived of his place at the Danish court because of a duel, and was made governor of Santa Cruz. He left in 1812 and with his wife came to the United States. Two years later the boy Thomas was born in Baltimore. When he was 6 years old the family went to Denmark.

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At the age of 15, Thomas Munstery really began his own life of adventure. He went into the Danish navy and served for three years. While in port at Rio de Janeiro he killed his first man, a negro, who had insulted him. After his sea service he went to Stockholm, where he became the pupil of Dr. Linge, the inventor of the Swedish system of massage. Under Linge's instruction he became an expert swordsman and a champion "strong man." He went to St. Petersburg when he was 22 years old as fencing master and commander of the body guard of the Grand Duke Constantine. He fought all comers there, including the wild men from beyond the frontier, for the amusement of the court, and a palace and treasure were given to him. The boy from Baltimore was getting along in the world famously, when he unfortunately consented to help his chum, Ivan Orloff, elope with a lady of the court. He was exiled for that and went back to Copenhagen without a ruble. But he gambled as well as he fought, and soon made enough of a fortune to go to Berlin and claim a commission in the army on account of his Hohenzollern blood. The story of his parentage was not relished at the court, so he was put in prison at Sandau. He never knew how he got out of that scrape, but thought that it was because his mother pleaded for him.

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His first adventure after getting out of jail was to fall in love with a woman whom another man loved. The other man was Charles Hansen, a Danish nobleman. They fought, and Hansen was killed. Munstery forgot the woman, hurried to this country and got into the United States navy. He saw some service and was then put in the naval hospital at Portsmouth, N. H., for repairs. That tamed him for awhile, and he tried to sell cigars in Philadelphia, but he smoked more than he sold and his swords and guns were getting rusty. He was hungry for a fight and hurried off to Nicaragua, where he got several. He served there in several revolutions, but could never remember on what side he fought. Nor could he remember the number of his wounds or the number of men he killed in hand-to-hand combat. They were numerous.

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From Nicaragua he went to Cuba with Narcisco Lopez, thence to the United States of Colombia, where he fought for the dictator, Jose Maria Mello. To save his neck he escaped to New York and in 1855 went back to Copenhagen, where he happened to be in the nick of time to serve the Spanish charge d'affaires in an affair of honor. The Spaniard sent him to Madrid, where he fought for the entertainment of royalty and became a court favorite, with much gold. The government sent him to Cuba to teach the soldiers there how to use their swords and bayonets. He landed at Puerto Principe just in time to get into a game of monte at the place. It was a feast day. Munstery lost all of his Spanish gold on a queen. That was the seventh fortune he had lost. He had love affairs and duels in Cuba, of course, but was finally disabled by the treachery of a barber whom he had hired to bleed him for a fever. The barber was the agent of a rival duellist, and he cut a tendon in Munstery's sword arm. The general cured that, so he always told his friends later in life, by the tricks in massage he had learned from Dr. Linge. As soon as he was able to thrust and lunge once more he got together a band of fifty-four adventurers and went to Honduras to take part in a revolution. They were all captured and Munstery was put in a jailyard with eight men to guard him. The officer who posted the guard didn't know Munstery or he'd have left a battalion. The general killed three of the eight, broke the bayonets of three more and two ran away.

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He was about to leave the country when President Guardiola, a Mestizo Indian, heard of the exploit in the jailyard and made him a general and a favorite to show his gratitude. Munstery fought the "strong man" of Honduras with Toledo blades before an audience of 20,000 folks and won. The plain people rooted for the native strong man and bet 8,000 copper dollars on him, all there were in the country, and lost. The followers of the president got the copper. That gave Guardiola his long-sought opportunity of retiring the copper and reforming the currency. Nothing in Honduras was too good for Munstery after that, until he began to think too much of the president's wife. Then he was sentenced to fight a bull in the arena. He had a week to prepare for the fray. With the aid of an American friend, Dr. Wells, Munstery bought six bulls at $2 each and went into the country to practice the matador death stroke. He killed a bull a day in training, and then won the big fight in the arena against a bull with filed horns, and that after all the picadores and banderilleros had deserted him. Dr. Wells emptied three six-shooters into the air for joy without leaving his seat and died of delirium tremens four days later while still celebrating Munstery's victory.

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But Guardiola was still jealous. He sent Munstery to fight a wild tribe on the frontier. Munstery was captured and tied to a tree over night to be butchered in the morning. One of the tribe, who had been valet to the late Dr. Wells, cut the thongs and Munstery escaped to the river. He jumped in and went over a cataract without injury. Then he made his way to San Salvador, where he became so popular that Gerardo Barrios, from jealousy, condemned him to death. Munstery escaped with twelve followers to Chiapas, where he was made chief of cavalry in a war against Miramon and Ortega. He was separated from his men in a skirmish and had to fight alone against ten of the enemy. He killed them all and got $100,000 worth of Ortega's stolen treasure, which he hid. That was his last real fight. One of the ten men wounded him so seriously that Munstery came to this country and settled in Chicago as a maitre d'armes. From time to time he needed that hidden gold, but couldn't find his maps.

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In Chicago the old campaigner's specialty was training actors for sword play on the stage. Among his pupils were Forrest, the elder Davenport, Junius Brutus Booth, Edwin Booth and Francis Wilson. The general's only motto was: "He who lives by the sword lives long." He was 88 when he died and he had a full head of his own hair and all of his own teeth. He was six feet tall and weighed 160 pounds. He smoked twenty cigars a day and never missed a drink.

YOUR UNCLE SAM'S PROGRESSIVE WAY

Editor of The Tribune—

Sir: Beet sugar interests in this country are growing. Our consumption of imported sugar in 1901 was 250,000,000 pounds more than 1899, the highest previous year; but, in spite of the alleged evil ways of the so-called sugar trust, we pay out $8,000,000 less for the increased quantity.

Southern interests are prospering under Republican policies as never before. A few years ago the town of High Point, N. C., was practically unknown. Now it is called the Grand Rapids of the south, having twenty-five furniture factories with $750,000 capital. Its population has increased from 500 to 6,000.

Last year's business of the express companies was the largest in their history. The Wells-Fargo company paid an extra dividend of two per cent., making eight per cent. for the year.

The Philadelphia and Erie railroad has declared a dividend of two per cent. This is its first dividend for several years.

In 1857 the Broadway Tabernacle, New York city, site was bought by the church for $78,000. Now it has been sold for $1,360,000, a profit of $1,222,000.

Even W. J. Bryan shared last year in our sound money prosperity to the extent of $40,000 profits from his newspaper. Had his so-called policy triumphed in 1896 or 1900 there would not have been enough people with the necessary gold dollars able or willing to buy the 100,000 circulation. Republicanism protects its enemies even against themselves.

Those of us who have pro-Boer prejudices should not lose sight of the fact that since the South African war began we have received $82,000,000 of Great Britain's money for horses and mules alone.

France is patting herself on the back for being able to float a loan at par, while we are having a world of trouble to prevent our surplus getting larger. Instead of increasing taxes to pay increased interest we have to reduce taxes to keep down our revenues.

The fiscal year 1902 will give us a treasury surplus of $100,000,000, besides which we, the people, have $3,000,000,000 to our credit in the national banks and $2,500,000,000 in the savings banks.

"Today Uncle Sam's credit is such that he could borrow a billion at two per cent. But Uncle Sam is not borrowing in protection times. He is buying his own bonds, canceling his debt and reducing his interest charges."—American Economist.

Secretary Gage's annual report shows that Republican policies have decreased the public debt, principal and interest, by $146,570,870. In a single year the annual interest charge has been reduced from $40,000,000 to $28,000,000 (after a war), yet Mr. Cleveland, in times of peace, had to borrow $262,000,000 at four and five per cent.

In contrast with the prosperity of our coal regions we may note that the wages of the South Wales miners are seven and one-half per cent. less than last year.

The net earnings of our railroads for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1901, were $555,000,000, or $35,000,000 in excess of 1900. The dividends paid were $121,000,000, or $15,000,000 increase.

The west is still complaining loudly of the shortage of cars and of coal, owing to the unprecedented heavy demand for both.

The foregoing is most encouraging, but we have now reached the point where care should mark each step, "lest we forget" ourselves and become reckless. Very truly yours,

—Walter J. Ballard.

Schenectady, N. Y., Jan. 8.

Outline Studies of Human Nature

Teaching Respect for Old Dogs.

In a certain skirmish an officer got a slight scratch on the leg. The wound was a matter of great glory to him, and he nursed it through after days, growing lamer with every fear that the memory of his bravery might pass out of mind.

One day, late in life, as he sat nursing his leg and pondering the glorious past, a young man visiting the family for the first time approached, and sympathetically remarked:

"Lame, Colonel?"

"Yes, sir," after a pause, and with inexpressible solemnity; "I am lame."

"Been riding, sir?"

"No"—with rebuking sternness—"I have not been riding."

"A slip down on the pavement?"

"No, sir," with actual ferocity.

"Perhaps, then, you have sprained your ankle, sir?"

With a painful slowness, the old man lifted his pet leg in both hands, set it carefully down upon the floor, rose slowly from his chair, and looking down on the unfortunate youth with mingled pity and wrath, burst forth in the sublimity of rage:

"Go and read the history of your country, you confounded young puppy!"—The Regiment.

The Horse Blew First.

An Irish horse owner whose horse had been prescribed for by a veterinary surgeon ran into the latter's office, and, with tears in his eyes and his face the "picture of bady luck," cried: "Oh, Mr. Moriarty, I'm poorly. The powdher's kilt me entirely!"

"The powder!" cried Mr. Moriarty. "Why, I didn't tell you to take the powder. O told you to place it in a paper tube and put one end in the horse's mouth and blow hard."

"Yes, sorr," cried Pat, "I put the powdher in the chube, and I put the end of it in the horse's mouth, with the other end in my own, but, begorra, he blew first."—London Answers.

Newly Married?

She was newly married, and did not know a little bit about either housekeeping or shopping, and she was giving her first order. It was a crusher; but the grocer was a clever man, and was used to all kinds of orders and could interpret them easily.

"I want two pounds of paralyzed sugar," she began, with a businesslike air.

"Yes'm. Anything else?"

"Two tins of condemned milk."

"Yes'm."

He set down pulverized sugar and condensed milk.

"Anything more, ma'am?"

"A bag of fresh salt. Be sure it is fresh."

"Yes'm. What next?"

"A pound of desecrated codfish."

He wrote, glibly, "desiccated cod."

"Nothing more, ma'am? We have some nice horse-radish just in."

"No," she said, "it would be of no use to us; we don't keep a horse."

Then the grocer sat down and fanned himself with a patent washboard, although the temperature was nearly freezing.—Tit-Bits.

The Proof Was Sufficient.

A convict at a French penal settlement who was undergoing a life sentence desired to marry a female convict, such marriages being of common occurrence. The governor of the colony offered no objection, but the priest proceeded to cross-examine the prisoner.

"Did you not marry in France?" he asked.

"Yes."

"And your wife is dead?"

"She is."

"Have you any document to show that she is dead?"

"No."

"Then I must decline to marry you. You must produce some proof that your wife is dead."

There was a pause, and the bride-prospective looked at the would-be groom.

Finally he said: "I can prove that my former wife is dead."

"How will you do so?"

"I was sent here for killing her."

The bride accepted him notwithstanding.—Edinburgh Scotsman.

Anchor Was Coming.

It happened that he had never been on board a boat, but he had an aching longing to ride the bounding billows. He sailed on board a whaler, and was leaning over the stern rail, making a minute examination of the atlantic ocean, when the captain shouted:

"Heave up that anchor!"

The landlubber just then saw something interesting in the depths.

"Hey, there! Are you going to heave up that anchor?" angrily demanded the captain.

"I think I am, sir," replied the new one, clutching his vest convulsively; "I think it's comin' up now, sir."—Denver Times.

ALWAYS BUSY.

1902 Money Saving Sale

Is now on. With every pair of our Feet and Health Saving Shoes you get a shoe shiner free.

200 pairs of Men's Double Soled, Vici Kid and Box Calf Shoes, worth $2.00. **Our 1902 Cash Price** **$1.40**

200 pairs of Youths' Vici Kid patent tips, worth $1.00. **Our 1902 Cash Price** **50c**

100 pairs of Youths' and Boys' Leggins, mixed lots, not all sixes in every lot, but the size you need in some of the lots, worth $1.25 **Our 1902 Cash Price** **50c**

100 pairs of Men's Solid Tap Boots all sizes, worth $1.50 to $2.50. **Our 1902 Cash Price**..... **$1.00**

100 pairs of Men's Solid Tapped Soled Shoes, lace and Blucher, worth $1.25. **Our 1902 Cash Price**..... **90c**

100 pairs Ladies' Vici Kid button and lace Shoes worth $1.00 to $1.25. **Our 1902 Cash Price** **75c**

200 pairs Misses and Children's Vici Kid School Shoes, worth 75c to $1.00. **Our 1902 Cash Price**..... **50c**

Mixed lot of Ladies' Dress and Fancy Slippers, toe a little bit narrow, worth $1.00 to $1.50. **Our 1902 Cash Price** **50c**

You can see by the above list that very little cash is required to purchase good reliable and honest footware.

Lewis & Reilly, 114-116 Wyoming Avenue.

Hill & Connell's Holiday Furniture

There can be no more appropriate gift than one of the following lines, all of which are marked in plain figures:

Writing Desks, Dressing Tables, Fancy Tables, Cheval Glasses, Parlor Cabinets, Music Cabinets, Curio Cabinets, Book Cases, Screens, Lounges, Work Tables, Easy Chairs, Gift Chairs, Inlaid Chairs, Rockers, Shaving Stands, Pedestals, Jardinieres, Morris Chairs.

Low prices and large assortment to select from, of well made and desirable patterns.

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

Cut Glass, Sterling Silverware Clocks, Etc.

Suitable for Wedding Gifts.

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FINLEY'S

January Sale of Fine Muslin Underwear

Fine Cambric, Nainsook and Muslin Undergarments of superior workmanship and beautiful finish, some daintily trimmed in neat narrow embroideries, others more elaborate, in wide, rich laces—the kind that reflect the reputation of a store.

At this time of the year great quantities of inferior grades of Underwear are thrown upon the market and advertised at prices that appear cheap. You don't find this class of merchandise here. We believe you do not care to buy such.

We sell the finest grade Underwear made. Our prices are the lowest possible for this grade of work.

New line of fine French Lingerie and Bridal Sets.

CORSET COVERS from 19c to $6.00

NIGHT GOWNS from 75c to $15.00

CHEMISES from 50c to $4.50

DRAWERS from 25c $4.50

LONG SKIRTS from 98c to $15.00

SHORT SKIRTS from 35c to $3.00

CHILDREN'S DRAWERS

Special lot Children's Drawers, made from good quality fine muslin, nicely trimmed. Sizes from 2 years to 12 years. All at one price—19c each.

510-512 Lackawanna Ave.

Headquarters for Incandescent Gas Mantles, Portable Lamps.

THE NEW DISCOVERY

Kern Incandescent Gas Lamp.

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Successors to Machine Business of Dickson Manufacturing Co., Scranton and Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

Stationary Engines, Boilers, Mining Machinery, Pumps.

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Open Saturday evenings 8 to 9 o'clock.
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Do you wish to have pretty rings? We will be pleased to show you Solitaire Diamond Rings, Diamond and Emerald Rings, Diamond and Ruby Rings, Diamond and Opal Rings, Diamond and Sapphire Rings, Diamond and Turquois Rings. We will mount any desired combination to order.

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