

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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SCRANTON, FEBRUARY 24, 1902.

Wall street, it is said, is displeased because President Roosevelt ordered suit brought to test the legality of the Northern Securities company merger without giving it an advance tip.

Prince Henry.

THE Kentucky congressman who in a crude and rude way recently voiced the fear that the American people are becoming sycophantic may have really felt as he spoke.

The coming to this country of the brother of the emperor of Germany on a mission of friendly import demands no exercise of sycophancy on the part of either visitor or host.

For his own sake, as a man of merit and character, and for the sake of the public which in a sense he represents, the American people are going to give him a cordial and hospitable reception.

We have no doubt of Prince Henry's ability to stand the pressure of the next few days, but we are not so sure of all of his entertainers.

Expel Tillman.

UNTIL last Saturday, in all the years of the United States senate, amidst its many scenes of passionate speech and deeply stirred feeling, never had one senator used a physical blow upon another senator while the senate was in session.

It is impossible to view this single disgraceful act without taking into account the many occasions when this same Cyclopean bully has, by other deeds, not in themselves directly punishable yet in character vicious and most offensive, disgraced the office he fills and brought humiliation upon the distinguished assemblage to which he belongs.

Senator Tillman's natural ability, erude though it be, does not excuse, it rather intensifies his offense. He has had ample opportunity to learn how to behave. He knows better. But instead of trying to check the pitchfork quality in him he has deliberately made it a political stock in trade.

United States. While the senate may not expel him for the mere possession of unimpeachable character, yet when he tries to turn the senate chamber into a shambles it seems to us that it is the senate's opportunity to take him by the scruff of the neck and pitchfork him out.

The Small College.

THERE is much in what the moderator of the Presbyterian General assembly, the Rev. Dr. Minton, said yesterday, in the course of his remarks in the First Presbyterian church, about the relationship which should exist between the college and the university.

Perhaps one of the reasons why many old-fashioned business men, like the Mr. Crane of Chicago who, as we mentioned the other day, has gone to the trouble of publishing a book decrying the usefulness of a college education in commercial life, do not place more confidence in the so-called higher book learning is because of late years the tendency in university development has been away from the best improvement of the individual attendant and almost wholly in the direction of securing the most costly but this has greatly augmented the opportunities for higher education it has by no means increased the quality of the average of that education.

Immense combinations and centralizations may be wise in the business world, especially where the production of quantity with economy is the great consideration. But the production of well-cultured character is of enough importance to warrant the taking of all necessary time, patience and pains.

An hour before the Park Avenue hotel in New York caught fire the Seventy-first regiment armory, just across the street, was burning fiercely; yet it is claimed no alarm was sounded among the hotel's sleeping guests.

The Ministry as a Career. AFTER noting that in the decade just past the number of divinity students in this country has hardly more than held its own while the number of students in law and medicine almost doubled, a contributor to the New York Sun asks the pertinent question, Why are young men so reluctant to undertake the duties of the ministry as a life work?

"I do not find myself able to endorse the proposition that the ferment of critical scholarship, the unrest of creed and doctrine, has played an important part in diminishing the number of candidates for the ministry. I doubt whether three out of five among the lily care a button about such questions. It is the ferment about social questions, the commercialism which is sapping the very life-blood of churches in cities, which causes a young fellow to think twice before he risks advanced views of social conduct on the stormy waters of a fashionable parish.

The writer in the Sun proceeds to point out the small incomes of the ministry as a rule and the harsh fate which awaits the average minister when advanced in years; and that leads him to offer a suggestion as to how the ministry may best be recruited so as to preserve its independence and courage. He would have young men of independent means encouraged to study for a life-work in the pulpit and in the activities which cluster about it. Either that, he contends, or a celibate priesthood. In his judgment, the bread-and-butter problem must be eliminated before the pulpit can regain its old-time authority.

At first glance there seems some plausibility in these arguments. Certainly the dedication to high purposes of young men with means is heartily to be encouraged. Of all groups the idle rich are most pitiable and useless. But it will upon reflection, be perceived that to take from the ministry the bread-and-butter incentive is to doom it to stagnation. There is more talk than fact about the restrictive influence of the "wealthy parishioner." Very often this type of man is as responsive

to merit and moral courage in the pulpit as is the poor parishioner; and when he isn't there are always plenty with conscience and message need never lack a congregation.

Review of Work of Pan-American Congress

IN YESTERDAY'S SUN Oscar King Davis presents an instructive summary of the results achieved at the recent Pan-American congress held in the City of Mexico and attended by representatives of practically all the American republics.

The most important of them was the result of the recommendations of the committees on commerce and reciprocity and on ocean transportation. These committees united in recommending that there be held in New York within a year a special congress of tariff experts, which shall deal with the problem of simplifying the administration of the customs laws in the various nations.

It is, of course, not intended that this congress shall have anything to say or to do with the question of rates and schedules; it is to deal merely with the administration of the customs laws. It will try to strike out a general scheme whereby all the republics of the new world may collect their customs imposts in the same manner. Their simplification and uniformity of customs formalities, can be attained, it is believed, of tremendous advantage to commercial interests everywhere.

And while this special congress is trying to reach a solution of this problem, it will endeavor to devise a means whereby all the charges now collected from ships under nineteen different heads may be gathered into one, to be levied on the basis of the net tonnage of the vessel. It may get through with all the formalities incident to their call at any port in one visit to the proper officials without having to go through the long and complicated routine that now obtains.

The conference also gave a big boost to the plan launched at the first conference for the publication of a great dictionary of commercial nomenclature. The scheme is one that offers great advantages to firms engaged in international trade. It is to be prepared and printed by the Bureau of American Republics at the common expense of all the republics, a dictionary which shall give in English, French, Spanish and Portuguese the name of every article of commerce or trade handled in the nineteen republics. The colloquial and local names will also be given, and with it will be a compendium of the customs laws of the different countries.

This will enable any manufacturer of even the smallest article in the most inaccessible place to find out the name of his product in the various languages of the various countries and how it will be treated at the customs house when shipped there. Such a work would be of the greatest value to the merchant and manufacturer. Of interest somewhat more sentimental, but many believed to be quite practical, was the work of the conference in behalf of what is called the Pan-American day. This is to be held in each of the nineteen republics on the same day, to be held in each of the nineteen republics on the same day, to be held in each of the nineteen republics on the same day.

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complementations of the conference. It must be said that among the advantages to be derived from the conference is that of the general reiteration of certain broad principles which on the whole make for peace and the betterment of relations among the countries represented.

BOYS' ESSAYS.

Copied Verbatim by the London Spectator.

The Crusades. The crusades were a body of men, women and children who followed the red cross. They were invented by Richard the Lion Heart. In thousands round him to go to Egypt and some were stricken with deadly disease but they marched down on him and he was killed. After traveling about for many weary months he joined an opera company and was afterward buried in Westminster Abbey.

The Camel.

He is called the ship of the desert because he runs over sand like a ship and does not sink in it. He is different to the horse because he lifts up one leg on the side of his body and then goes on the other. He has about a hundred stumps and each holds about a quart so when his master kills him he can have a good drink. His hump makes him fat and he eats this when he can't get grass or hay. Some camels are not camels because he has two humps and his hair does not cover him and he is called a dromedary because it kneels down and wears away. The Arab loves his dromedary more than his wife and in our book there is a piece about him called the Arab and his dromedary. A man named a dromedary and his dromedary took him round the world and he was very happy to see his morning friends.

Shipwreck.

A shipwreck is an awful thing, for sometimes you get wet and sometimes you get drowned and sometimes you get hurt but the last is the best. Once a big liner got upset with a monster wave in her side, but all the people were saved but one and he got wet. Sharks and whales fed on dead bodies and sometimes they eat them before they are buried. Boys and girls don't get much pleasure all they get when they smoke and do what they like. My father goes where he likes unless mother's angry then he stays at home.

Pleasure.

Pleasure is doing what you like but we don't get much pleasure except in drawing lessons and when a solution of this problem is reached we can do what we like. Last week I went to the fair. This was pleasure and I got very wet and dirty and mother called me a little pig but I went to bed before father came. Boys and girls don't get much pleasure all they get when they smoke and do what they like. My father goes where he likes unless mother's angry then he stays at home.

Marriage.

Marriage is a better way mother says so and I shall never get married. Father has married to my mother twenty years and last year they got married again to make sure. If they live long enough he's going to have a gold one. My father has one wife but he has a second one. My mother has a hundred. I don't want such a lot of mothers because you catch plenty of bacteria and our teacher told us that Mr. Boden (Bacon) said those who have lots of wives and little boys gives hosts to fortune but I don't know what this means.

Water.

It is liquid so is beer and milk but the first is called a beer because it is adulterated that is sugar and hops are added. Water is very useful, we also drink it and the animals drink it and we wash our faces. Sea water is salt and is useful for all kinds of fish such as cod and whales and herring. Rain is water and is kept in old tubs and barrels to wash dirty clothes.

ACROSS THE STREET.

Across the street there lives a maid, A jolly, teasing little job, With wavy hair and winking eyes, And yet so staid and wiggly wise. That she declines to send a glance, Across my way, it seems more chance, And quick withdraws in swift retreat, Across the street.

Across the street East and West, Forgetful of my time and best; I see her slinking on the pore, And build me up in her store. I watch and wait, with patience rare, Till just as I would quite despair, She looks round and her window-seat, Across the street.

Across the street both came a change; My brain no more with riddles teases— What use have I for fancies frail? The maid, as it were, has failed. Hath moved, to make my joy complete, Across the street!

—Truman Robert Andrews, in the Smart Set.

ALWAYS BUSY.

Across the street both came a change; My brain no more with riddles teases— What use have I for fancies frail? The maid, as it were, has failed. Hath moved, to make my joy complete, Across the street!

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