

The Scranton Tribune

Published Daily Except Sunday, by The Tribune Publishing Company, at Fifty Cents a Month. LLOYD R. RICHARD, Editor. O. F. BYRNE, Business Manager.

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, NOVEMBER 28, 1902.

Good morning! How is your digestion?

Bishop Spalding's Views.

THROUGH the courtesy of M. Norton, we have been privileged to examine an early copy of "Socialism and Labor and Other Arguments," the new book by Bishop Spalding, of the Anthonie Strike commission, which has just been issued by A. C. McClurg, Chicago.

We have marked for quotation a few passages which will, we think, fairly exhibit the bishop's point of view. In the chapters treating especially of socialism he summarizes fairly the arguments of its advocates and then shows how, without questioning that there are evils in great need of correction, the socialistic remedy would be worse than the disease.

In another place the bishop crystallizes his entire philosophy in the pregnant sentence: "Man's proper measure is character," and repeatedly, in comment upon labor movements, warns workmen against believing that any mechanism of their own in way of union or organization can do for them what personal efficiency and developed Christian character can do.

"It is manifest that our politics have become essentially immoral. Neither party dares to touch any question that is higher and holier than that of tariff or no tariff, looking upon a wretched financial problem as the only vital interest of a people who lack not money, but virtue."

Whatever may be the truth as to poor Ellen Gore, there is no doubt that her companion was a first-class cad, and to suggest that conscience ought again to assert itself in American politics is to make one's self ridiculous.

Build the Canal. IT NOW appears to be the settled policy of the Colombian government to delay indefinitely, if not entirely to frustrate, the resumption of work on the Panama canal.

But it is for American journalism that the bishop reserves the vials of his wrath. Men and brethren, read this: "The press of our great cities is the chronicler of our life. What does it record? Murders, suicides, robberies, thefts, adulteries, fornications, divorces, drunkenness, gambling, incendiarism, fraudulent bankruptcies, official peculations with now and then a collision of trains and destruction of life and property by mobs. This fills the news columns. In the editorials we meet with reckless assertion, crude generalization, special pleading, ignorant or dishonest statements of half truths, insincere praise and lying abuse of public men, frivolous treatment of the highest and holiest subjects—all thrown into that form of false reasoning and loose style which is natural to minds that have not time to learn anything thoroughly. And this half-learned and half-

mental, brotzel-and-srog mixture, brought from the great cities by special trains to every household, falls like a mildew upon the mind and conscience of the people, taking from them all reverence for literature, all belief in virtue, all reverence for God and nature, until one may doubt whether we have not lost the power of intellectual and moral growth."

For our political ills the bishop proposes woman suffrage—for, says he, with equal truth and gallantry, "Women are the most religious, the most moral, and the most sober portion of the American people"—and a new party dedicated primarily to moral principles and to the solution of moral problems, including a character-forming plan of education, the promotion of temperance and sobriety, reduction of social evils and the like.

In view of the fact that both parties express pleasure that the strike hearing is to continue and seeing, also, that the third party in interest is not objecting, let joy be unconfined.

Monroe Doctrine Delimited.

THE PRESIDENT has formally notified Great Britain and Germany that the Central and South American republics are responsible alone for their individual debts, their national indiscretions, their regional and any loss to foreign nations that their eternal frontier broils and internal dissensions may involve.

So much is clear. Diplomats, international lawyers and foreign ministers understand all this as well as we do here, and certainly since the doctrine was formulated by us it has not been contravened, either directly or indirectly, except during the French occupation of Mexico. That incident brought out the full and explicit meaning of the Monroe doctrine in its masterful and practical application in all its exceptional significance.

President Castro, of Venezuela, begins to talk like a man who had regained his faith in himself. The church and its ministers cannot be said to have risen in public estimation since the Civil war. Its control over education has distinctly diminished.

A PARALLEL DUTY. From the New York Sun. There would be just as much propriety in condemning laboring men for doing jury duty as there is in condemning laboring men for serving in the National Guard, because jurymen, no less than National Guardsmen, are sometimes called upon to enforce the law against violence by strikers.

THE COAL STRIKE DEMAND. From the Rochester Post-Express. The people of the United States want all the facts brought out; they want a permanent settlement of existing differences. If that be possible, and a permanent removal of all sources of dissatisfaction and injustice.

A SATISFIED AUDITOR. This world is a stage, they tell me. No doubt what they tell me is true. And I'm glad that I came for a look at the same. And I'm happy to see it through. It's a pretty good show in the morning; it's a pretty good show at night; it's a glorious fun; 'neath the smiling sun; and it's pleasant when stars are bright.

would be too much in the line of progressive civilization to suit its reactionary and anarchical form of government. The canal would bring civilization and commercial prosperity to Colombia and these would be fatal to the warring despots that from time to time take a turn at the wheel of state.

Colombia's attitude is easily explained. It will be remembered that the New York Sun published some two months ago the terms of a secret alliance entered into between Chile and Colombia. The truth and authenticity of this treaty has not been denied either by Colombia or Chile.

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THE NEW YORK TIMES calculates that it would be cheaper to telegraph the more expensive Nicaragua canal route, even though it is the less desirable one, than to run any risk of getting into a row with Colombia, that might cost a great deal more than the difference.

Germany and Great Britain, it is announced, have agreed upon a programme with reference to Venezuela. Castro is to be made to sweat. He certainly deserves to.

CHURCH INFLUENCE. President Eliot in the World's Work. The church and its ministers cannot be said to have risen in public estimation since the Civil war. Its control over education has distinctly diminished.

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