

The Scranton Tribune

Published Daily Except Sunday, by The Tribune Publishing Company, at Fifty Cent a Month.

LIVY B. RICHARD... O. F. BYRDEE... Entered at the Postoffice at Scranton, as Second-Class Mail Matter.

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, DECEMBER 15, 1902.

Two sentences imposed last week by Judge Newcomb are calculated to invite comparison. Fred Morgan, for forgery and false pretenses, resulting in his getting a gallon of whiskey and a few dollars in change, was sentenced to twelve years and a half in the penitentiary. Wladislaw Knostomowicz, who threw a companion over a porch railing to the ground several feet below, breaking the man's neck, and who was for nearly two years a fugitive from justice, was sentenced to three years and nine months in the penitentiary.

Food for Thought.

IT WOULD be untrue to say that the Venezuelan situation is not disquieting to Americans. It is chock full of the possibilities of mischief. The Monroe doctrine is simple enough as we interpret it and if the English and the Germans would look at it through our spectacles, all would go well.

But as a matter of fact, the European view of the Monroe doctrine is neither sympathetic nor exact. Leaving Great Britain out of the problem for argument's sake, and because the reasons why she should wish to avoid coming into any entanglement with us far outnumber and outweigh any conceivable considerations to the contrary, the case for Germany stands about as follows: The government of Venezuela is responsible to citizens of Germany for certain damages inflicted and has not only not paid, but has actually delayed, squandered and browbeaten in its efforts to avoid its responsibility. Patience having ceased, Germany, with England's co-operation, has set forth to enforce payment. Payment can be enforced only in two ways, either by the seizure of customs or by the taking of territory. Should the customs not suffice, territory would have to be taken or the claims go unsatisfied. The chances are that the customs will prove insufficient, especially if Venezuela should decide to draw itself up laughingly in its mountains and break off during German occupation of its ports its customary foreign commerce.

Here comes in the Monroe doctrine, which, while acquiescing in the seizure of customs, forbids the alienation of territory. But if the customs are insufficient and territory may not be alienated, how is Germany to get what is coming to her? No provision exists in the Monroe doctrine for American intervention to prevent among mongrel American republics misuse such as develops these crises, nor does the United States offer from its own revenues to reimburse European creditors to whom one of the customary international methods of reimbursement—the taking over of territory—is forbidden by our edict. If we look at the subject from the German standpoint we see that our position is at variance with international usage, that it is like that of the dog in the manger, and that it may be combated whenever some other nation feels strong enough to defy it.

It may readily be conceded that the authorities at Berlin are acting in good faith toward the authorities at Washington and are friendly and "correct." But if the Venezuelan case should go on until the German fighting spirit was aroused and some subordinate on the scene of strife should overstep the limits set by us, it is inconceivable that Berlin might vary from its belated repudiation of Von Dederichs at Manila and resolve under cover of England's friendly attitude to put once for all its claim upon the Monroe doctrine.

Not everybody in official position is at liberty to say all he thinks, but we venture to say that the thoughts which are in the minds of our executive officials concerning this Venezuelan dispute, would, if clothed in words, make mighty interesting reading.

Today's special term of criminal court, chiefly to try cases growing out of the strike, will afford an interesting test of the jury system. In some localities in the anthracite region the jury system has succumbed to prejudice. We want no such disgrace in Lackawanna.

Occupation for the Negro.

EX-PRESIDENT CLEVELAND'S address at the meeting in aid of the Berean Manual Training school in Philadelphia the other night has attracted much attention among those who are of a philanthropic turn and who realize that the progress of the black man since his emancipation has not been what might have been expected in a land of supposed freedom and enlightenment. Mr. Cleveland put the whole colored question in one phrase when he said that the way must be opened for the negroes to engage in something better than menial service, but Mr. Cleveland, like many others who desire the betterment of the colored man, makes a mistake in assuming that the negro is unable to learn any trade whereby he may gain an honest livelihood. The reason that negroes are not found among the trades of the country is not because they are unable to grasp the problems presented, but because they are barred out by laws. In the public schools the colored

boy is allowed to take his place beside his white neighbor and gain knowledge which would enable him to successfully compete in almost any line of skilled labor; but when he arrives at an age when he might be able to put that knowledge to practical use he finds the avenues of labor closed against him on account of color; and this rule of caste is enforced even more rigidly in the north than in the south, where no consideration for the black man is expected. The colored student may wield the whitewash brush; black boots; become a waiter; work upon the asphalt pave; and in case of unusual good fortune secure a position as Pullman porter. But let him attempt to enter as an apprentice in any of the skilled occupations for which he may be better fitted by natural ability and education than many of his white brethren, and he would find that he might as well have remained a slave.

It has often been said that the half-educated negro is worse than the ignorant one. This is not surprising. When one considers the condition of a colored man of intelligence who finds the doors that should have been opened by the proclamation of emancipation over a quarter of a century ago still barred against him; and that his rights as an American citizen offer no opportunities for betterment, it is only a wonder that he is not more desperate and untractable. What is wanted is not training schools to teach the negro trades at which he will not be allowed to work, but the promotion of a sentiment that will allow him an opportunity to enter the various avenues of labor as an apprentice upon equal footing with the white man. Until this sentiment has been aroused, all the efforts of all the philanthropists in creation will be unavailing to elevate the condition of the negro.

In declining to act as a wet nurse for Wall Street in its latest speculative spasm, Secretary Shaw shows that he has profited by experience. Those who go into the gambling process of Wall Street must go prepared to accept the consequences. It is no part of the duty of the United States treasury to regulate its movements for the benefit of squeezed gamblers.

The Projectionist for December contains Walter J. Ballard's article, "What Mexico is Doing," and the Practical Age, a monthly published at Moline, Illinois, has the same gentleman's "Our Educational Work." Both these interesting and crisply written articles have appeared recently in the columns of The Tribune.

Unable to please everybody and sick of unjust criticism, Police Commissioner Partridge, of New York, has resigned. It continues to look as though New York could not stand merely honest government for the benefit of the governed, but must relapse into brigandage for the benefit of the grafters.

It is, of course, only a coincidence that Dewey and Coghlan, who had all plans laid to fight the German ships in Manila bay and would have done it if Von Dederichs had not come to time, are in command not far from Venezuela. But such coincidences often make history.

Already physicians in this country are criticizing the methods of Dr. Lorenz, the great Austrian surgeon, who has healed so many crippled children, but as usual in such cases the critics are small potatoes in the medical profession.

For once the London Saturday Review is right. Our Monroe doctrine cannot be sustained by words alone. The sure guarantee of European respect for the Monroe doctrine would be a navy big enough to enforce it.

Word has been received in Chicago to the effect that Pat Crowe, the kidnapper, will soon surrender. Now that Pat has decided to come home, no one seems to want him.

As a magazine or book writer, General DeWet will undoubtedly realize that the pen is mightier than the sword in the way of producing financial results.

Just six days more in which Republicans wishing to run for recorder may get into the race. Do the present entries fulfill all requirements?

There is undoubtedly a method in the condition of the persons who report his death is difficult to diagnose.

When the time for stringing the fish arrives, it will probably be demonstrated that the Anglo-German alliance is all on the surface.

It is feared that Mr. Cleveland's affection for the colored man will be regarded with jealous eyes out in Nebraska.

The British generals who expect to eat their Christmas dinner in Caracas will do well to make the announcement at once.

The Boer war has evidently inflamed Castro's conceptions of the ability of a small power to withstand a big one.

Italy now shows a disposition to have her claims against Venezuela on file when the receiver is appointed.

It will be impossible to overdo the Christmas gift business by showering presents upon the needy.

President Castro has probably been reading between the lines in the Monroe doctrine.

WOULD PASS FOR TAYLOR. From the Saguayama Transcript. The half tone portrait of Rev. Thomas R. Watkins, which appears in today's issue of the Scranton Tribune would easily pass for a picture of our friend, Editor Taylor, of the Altoona Republic. Mr. Watkins has Mr. Taylor's eyes, the fair, wavy hair, the prominent nose, the top of his head, and the little bunch of whiskers under the chin renders the resemblance complete.

Significant Words of President Baer

A FEATURE of the dinner of the Pennsylvania Society of New York last Friday night, which, owing to the lateness of the hour, did not receive the degree of attention in the press reports that it would have received had it occurred earlier in the evening, was the extraordinary demonstration of approval elicited by the concluding portion of the speech of President George E. Baer. The evening's flow of oratory had been without special incident up to the time that the reputed head of the alleged coal trust arose to speak of the principles of government in Pennsylvania. Up to that time the toast was largely in the vein of pleasantry and humor. When Mr. Baer began there seemed to pass over the large and representative company, including many of the foremost men in the commercial, industrial and professional life of New York, an intuition that something out of the ordinary was coming.

Mr. Baer made no feints at playfulness. He plunged at once into the midst of his subject, tracing the influence of William Penn's doctrine of tolerance upon the development of Pennsylvania's colonial institutions and upon the great charter upon which her statehood was built, a fundamental proposition in which was the right to acquire and protect property. He called attention to the fact that one of the doctrines of constitutional liberty as exemplified in the constitution of the United States was the right of the state to regulate her own internal affairs, without outside interference or pressure, and he predicted with solemn emphasis that the modern attempt to take from the states this local autonomy would be rejected by the final judgment of the American people after the return of sober thought and the reassertion of their common sense. Then, speaking with intense earnestness and fairly quivering, he continued:

"I remember when a boy in the fifties coming out of school, I saw an excited populace was shouting 'Ingraham!' 'Ingraham!' and hearing on a street corner the late Jeremiah S. Black haranguing an audience of 2,000 townsmen in passionate eloquence, amidst thunderous applause. I asked my father what it meant, and he told me how Captain Ingraham, on the warship St. Louis, in the harbor of Trieste, had demanded of the Austrian government the surrender of Martin Koszta, who two years before, had declared his intention of becoming an American citizen and who, upon returning to Austria, had been arrested and thrown into prison. Koszta, though foreign born and only started on the way toward American citizenship, was deemed entitled to the protection of his government in a far off place to such an extent that gallant Captain Ingraham, against the guns of the Austrian fleet, cleared ship for action and would have fought had not the Austrians thought discretion the better part of valor and surrendered their prisoner peacefully.

"Again, only a few years later, I marched through the greatest war in history, in which men by the thousands fell on every hand for the purpose of removing the one great blot on our national escutcheon caused by holding working black men in bondage. And it was reserved for one of the children of the plain people, who rose by virtue of his own resources and merit to the position of chief magistrate of his country and greatest of all the great Americans of his time or any time, Abraham Lincoln, to put his pen to the immortal document which forever secured, as was supposed, the freedom of American labor.

"How is it today? With shame do I say that we have recently seen, not one man foreign born put into duress before the requirement of full American citizenship, nor black men held in slavery, but hundreds of men, of the lowest citizens, free-born here at home, and supposed to be assured of the full protection of our constitution and our laws, denied the right to earn their honest living while the government of Pennsylvania, and the government of the United States stood by and permitted the United States to be disgraced and its honor sullied by the actions of politicians palmed. I say to you tonight that this right to work, among the smallest of the natural rights for the protection of which government was founded, must be re-established and re-defended and that if necessary the whole power of the government must be used to strike down the hand that would destroy it."

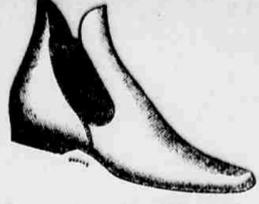
The scene which followed will long be remembered. It was dramatic and exciting to an extraordinary degree. The volume of applause which followed the development of Mr. Baer's argument rose at his climax to a regular torrent of din. Men rose and stood on chairs waving handkerchiefs and shouting. The applause lasted for minutes and then repeatedly renewed itself amidst calls of "Baer!" "Baer!" Those familiar with the history of after-dinner speaking in the metropolis say that the demonstration has had few parallels. The dinner itself was a notable one, aside from this dramatic and unexpected feature. The Pennsylvania Society of New York, although only four years old—the youngest, in fact, of the state societies formed since the war—has drawn the big city by business, pleasure and become in size and character of membership easily on a par with the oldest. Its 450 members, with their guests, filled the spacious ball-room of the Waldorf-Astoria, and amidst handsome decorations in foliage and flowers, and beneath the gaze of beautiful and beautifully gowned women spectators a spectacle not easily forgotten.

The spectators, too, were unique—aluminum coal pails apparently filled with imitation anthracite, but really masking a delicious confection, for which there were distributed dainty souvenir spoons. This clever idea was the contribution of the society's indefatigable secretary, Mr. Barry Barrow, who supervised all the arrangements.

A MYSTERY.

His mouth was large and his nose not straight. His eyes were a washed-out blue. His ears stuck far from a pear-like pate. His hair was a curly ring. An insignificant, gimcrack man. Comical, quaint, outre. Built on a wondrously homely plan. From the odds and ends of Clay. And the gods mocked, but—Livy took part. The mischievous, kindly elf. And threw a glamour by subtle art. Known just to his cunning self. Then, sudden, a woman, regal, tall. Sprang close to the secretary's side. "Indeed, he's the handsomest man of all whiskers under the chin renders the resemblance complete." —Edwin L. Sabin, in Smart Set.

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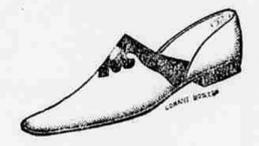
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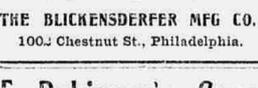
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THE TRIBUNE'S SECOND ANNUAL Junior Educational Contest

A Contest in Word-Building. Who Can Make the Most Words Out of the Letters in T-H-E H-O-M-E P-A-P-E-R.

THIS IS much easier than last year's contest, and twenty of the brightest boys and girls will secure Christmas Gifts in cash for making the largest number of words out of these letters. It is lots of fun to think of the words and hunt them up in the dictionary, and besides it will help you with your spelling. You will be surprised at the number of different ways these twelve letters can be used.

Rules of the Contest. Presents will be given to the boys or girls, whose parents or guardians are subscribers to THE TRIBUNE, building the largest number of words out of the letters contained in "The Home Paper."

No letter must be used any more times than they appear in these three words. As an example, only one "A" could be used, but there might be two "H's" or three "E's." Only words defined in the MAIN PORTION of "Webster's International Dictionary" (edition of 1898) will be allowed. Any dictionary can be used, but in judging the contest THE TRIBUNE will debar all words not found in Webster's. Proper names, or any other words appearing in the "Appendix" will not be allowed. Obsolete words are admitted if defined in the dictionary. Words spelled two or more ways can be used but once. Words with two or more definitions can be used but once. No single letters counted as words except "A" and "O."

How to Write Your List. Write on one side of the paper only. Write very plainly; if possible, use a typewriter. Place the words alphabetically. Write your name, age, address and number of words at the top of your list. Write the name of parent or guardian with whom you live and who is a regular subscriber to THE TRIBUNE. Fold the list—DO NOT ROLL.

CONTEST CLOSSES SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20TH at 5 P. M. All letters of inquiry for information will be promptly answered. Address your list of words, or any question you wish answered, to CONTEST EDITOR, SCRANTON TRIBUNE, SCRANTON, PA.

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