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SCRANTON, DECEMBER 25, 1902.

Events are steadily proving that there is not even a speaking acquaintance between Theodore Roosevelt and fear,

#### No Seat, Half Fare.

UMEROUS attempts have been made in different cities to enact and enforce in conway business the principle of "no seat, no fare," but the courts have held that to fifty per cent, of the collected fare, able to provide seating accommodation. This would not violate the equities of the problem; it would pay the carrier for the carrying just about what the a materialistic age, the Christmas carrying under those circumstances would be worth. We do not know what roll by, but, on the contrary, seems constitutional objections the rapid transit attorneys will be able to conjure at bottom mankind is sound. up in opposition to this apparently reasonable proposition, though of course they will find a number; but to a layman it would seem that a law of this character would pass muster. As a police regulation, to prevent overcrowding, it would seem to come within the power reserved to the municipality and be capable of enactment and enforcement by the city through an ordinance, in Pennsylvania, at least, without reference to the legislature.

An ordinance of this nature in Scranton, if it is enforeible, would fill a long felt want. There are hours of the day when the jam on the street curs is actually indecent, not only during the heliday rush, which this year was exceptional, but ordinarily. The explanadifficulties in arranging a broken schedule. This being conceded, the fairness of allowing a rebate to passengers compelled to stand is irresistible. No rebate should be issued while seats are unoccupied, in other words, no passenger should be permitted to clog the nisles in order to get a ride for half price. But when the seats are filled and there are not enough cars to go round, then surely the passenger, who has to endure a sweat-box source should be compensated.

It will not be long now until William A. Stone's troubles will be over and the burden of worry shifted to other shoulders. We'll wager that the day he resumes private citizenship will be the the solution of the land question will happiest of his life.

## An Inexplicable Blunder.

OW THAT the prospect of perceful issue out of the Venezuelan minddle is becoming bright, it is interesting to notice that the best public opinion in theest Deliain is coming round to the belief of the best public opinion in the United States, that King Edward's joining hands with King William to coerce a petty South American state was a diplomatic blunder of incomparable simplifity for which there was no excuse in necessity and no adequate prospective advantage. The ringing objection of Elpling cannot fall to tell in the minds of every intelligent Englishman, while from the American standpoint the incident is likely to leave an unpleasant taste in the mouth for many years to come.

Kipling objects to the Anglo-German alliance because of the abusiveness of German opinion regarding England's conduct of the South African war and suching alliance sufficient to compensate for its confession of weakness by men living. display of eagerness for a second-fiddle connection with a competing and fundamentally unsympathetic power. He does not take into account the effect of resign. It would be the acme of venthis alliance upon American public geance to let one of his enemies have opinion. Yet this is the one consider- his job. ation which should, it seems to us, be paramount. Until that incongruous alliance had been announced and German harshness in execution of the joint programme had shocked the sentiment of the American people, there was not a cloud upon the horizon of our international relations and with respect to England the feeling in this country was the most friendly that it had been since the republic was founded. The practice of twisting the lion's tail, once so gend active in this country, had been abandoned; and even lifelong critics of Great Britain the thought was growing that an Anglo-American entente, or kind of though unwritten combine, would after all, be about the wisest arrangement that could exist in view of its mutual advantages and wholetome influence upon the developments of world politics. It had taken many wars to bring this about and the feeling would never have ripened so rapidly but for the unmistakable friendibip of England during our difficulty with Spain. The idea that this friends

The Scranfon Tribune that at the first overture from an unsympathetic power like Germany his majesty's government would cast off the old love to take on a new fell like a wet blanket upon American observers, and in a minute the diplomatic achievement of decades was undone. England's joining hands with Ger-

Entered at the Postoffice at Scranton, as Second Class Mail Matter. nany was the more stupid because it 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 was in no sense necessary either for friendly neutrality of the United States | + would have more value to Great Britain in case she should have to fight a continental foe than any possible alliance she might make among the continental powers. We control her food supplies. So long as we ship to her |. shores the grain which keeps her people alive she can, with her navy, defy | the other powers. But let any interruption take place in the currents of Anglo-American commerce and forthwith Albion is prostrate. How foolish, then, to hazard the inestimable and genuine good will of the kindred people of America for the purpose of a crazy dicker with the German war lord, who can give nothing in exchange for what he gets save the doubtful value | of his erratic companionship.

From the American standpoint the whole incident, however, teaches one lesson more than worth its anxieties and disappointments. And that is that we must prepare to face the world in arms if we would preserve its peace. connection with street rall- The tendency in Europe to combine against us is plain and will become plainer as our competition with Europe legislation compelling a carrier to carry increases. Moral sentiment and talk of a person for nothing is unconstitutional kinship will not save us in a pinch; we amounting to confiscation of property, must look after our own salvation. But a resident of New York city meets The decline of England as exemplified and, it appears to us, overcomes this in her leaning on German strength objection by proposing that the legisla- leaves the Yankee wing the dominant ture pass a law requiring rapid transit fraction of the English-speaking race companies to issue a rebate check, equal and warns it that it must assume and be ready to enforce all the responsibilto every passenger for whom it is un- ity going with the leadership of man-

> In spite of the talk about this being spirit does not diminish as the years continually to increase. It shows that

#### Jersey Injustice.

HE ACQUITTAL of Laura Biggar, the actress, of the charge of conspiracy with of the elderly millionaire, Bennett, re-illustrates the susceptibility of the average jury where a fascinating woman is concerned. The fact that her companions in crime were convicted shows that the jury let Miss Biggar go sheerly out of sympathy. The conviction of + Dr. Hendricks and ex-Justice Stanton | + proves that the alleged conspiracy was a fact; and the testimony showed that the woman was the indispensable part of it. It was she who alleged the martion of the company is that to provide riage and claimed to have borne her special cars and special relays of work- nlieged husband a child. If what she the day would tie up more money than spiracy, and, instead of convicting her the income would warrant. Also, there collections the first should be the bureau, and the construction men for these two or three hours in claimed was true, there was no conthe income would warrant. Also, there colleagues, the jury should have thank- and repair of roads, bridges, and public ed them for trying to help an injured wife to her legal rights. If what she claimed was false, her acquittal is an invitation to unscrupulous women everywhere to concoet plans of blackmail without the restraining fear of consequences which ordinarily operates as some protection to society. We have heard a great deal of praise of Jersey justice, but this case teaches that it is by no means infallible. There remains just one method by which this astounding error can be measurably corrected. When Laura Biggar stars again, let us hope that her netoriety will not coin.

> All the news from Ireland is to the effect that ere another Christmas comes be well advanced. There are intimations in official circles that at the next sitting of parliament the government will introduce a land purchase bill which will enable every Irish tenant to buy the farm he lives on. Once this is done, we shall have an end of the Irish problem as it affects Great Bri-

Prominent anti-imperialists are now making considerable noise in advocating the velease of Mabini, the Filipine statesman, who refuses to take the oath of allegiance to the United States. When one realizes how easy Mabini could obtain liberty by promising to be good, this fuss of the emotional antis appears uncalled for.

The Jeffries-Munroe controversy again calls to mind that the greatest prize tighter, John L. Sullivan, was the only man who ever realized when he had been defeated.

General Greene, the new police commissioner of New York, has filled some because he sees no gain to thitain in hig contracts in his time, but if he fills this one he will be one of the biggest

> The revolution against Castro has broken out afresh. Now is his time to

> A little more latitude in the choice of life partners would probably have a pacificatory effect upon Europe's roya

> Judging from reports the peaceful blockude of Venezuela is a go-as-you please affair.

## PORTO RICO'S GOOD YEAR.

Good roads and bridges are essential to the prosperity of Porto Rico. To this problem, a problem indeed in that moun-tainous section of our new possessions the Insular Government is giving careful and vigorous attention. The location of roads is difficult, and their construction costly and slow, Torrential rains cause landsides and washouts, destruction of bridges and culverts. This work is now in charge of a hursau of public roads. Twenty-five per cent of the muni-cipal taxes is set apart to the construction and repair of roads and trails. Four hundred and twenty-four kilometers were built by the Spanish government and the of the present Insular govern-ment and 140 by the present Insular gov-

## THE CHRISTMAS DREAM.

TWAS the night before Christmas (I've heard that before, But it really don't matter, we'll use it once more). And mamma had tucked me up warmly in bed, And the moonlight was white, and the firelight was red. I'd hung up my stockings, the hole-y and new, And borrowed a pair of my dear mamma's too, And had left by the front door an armful of hay, Where Santa was certain to stop in his sleigh.

WAS watching the pale little moonbeams get lost And melting away in the firelight like frost, When right on the hearth in their silvery sheen Sat a round, rosy man, in a great coat of green, I wish I could draw him the way that he sat, His blue eyes a-twinkle in cushions of fat, His bushy white beard, and his flowing white hair, And his figure so rotund it filled up the chair.

His cap was of fur from the far polar seas, And his pipe was so long it reached down to his knees, And the smoke curled about him like halos they paint In azure and gold o'er the head of a saint. He stared in the grate, and he pondered so deep I thought the old fellow had fallen asleep. I guess he was weary with toting his load, And stopped at my papa's to rest on the road.

BUT his face was so kind that I wasn't afraid. "Hello! you are Santa Claus," that's what I said. "I'd like you to show me your new toys that go With whizzy, bright wheels, and machinery, you know." He rose to his feet and he spoke not a word, Not once from his lips was a syllable heard, But his gestures were merry, his manner was mild, And I thought it was sunlight whenever he smiled.

THAT smile was so jolly it made me smile back, As a glittering soldier jumped out of his pack, A regular jim-dandy, all ready for strife, Who drilled and saluted as natural as life. Then a pair of twin dolls round the room took a walk In sashes and spangles, and oh! they could talk. "Merry Christmas." they cried, in a way most polite, And bowed to me gayly and wished me good night.

N EXT a train and an engine went puffing about And stopped at the stations to let people out. And I cannot remember one-half of the things That followed on rollers and pulleys and wings That hopped, skipped and flew, and went out and went in, Of wood and of rubber, of steel and of tin, From the wax lady dressed in a mantle of silk, To a goat that could bleat, and a cow you could milk.

HE showed me a picture of Christmas-land; drums Grow wild on the branches like peaches and plums, And sleds on the bushes, and kites on the shelf, And you've nothing to do but go pick them yourself. The snow, when it falls in that beautiful land, Is not freezingly hard and so cold to your hand, But like pinkest and whitest and sweetest pop-corn. And it's Christmas whenever you wake every morn.

HE picked up my slate and my pencil at last And laughed to himself as he wrote very fast: "Little girls, little boys, love your fathers and mothers. Your cousins and playmates, your sisters and brothers, And you may be sure I will love you, and never Forget to fill up all your stockings forever." And then like a flash he had vanished away By the door or the chimney, I never could say.

MAMMA says that I dreamed it, the good saint of toys Is a great deal too busy to bother with boys. But I was awake, wide awake, through it all, And heard every time the clock struck in the hall, And my eyes never closed, not a minute, you see, Till I counted the chimes, and it 'twas half after three, And I know it was Santa Claus, too, by his looks, Because I have seen him so often in books. -Minna Irving, in Leslie's Weekly.

were engaged in road work as laborers.

There was much improvement in maters pertaining to the health, comfort nd convenience of the people. A market

Agriculture is progressing, 91,000 acres of sugar cane in 1901, with a crop of 95, 850 tons; more than one ton to each acre. For 1902, the crop will be 105,000 tons of sugar. Some large, new factories have been established, causing an in-crease in the number of plantations. In a few years the sugar crop will be twice what it is now. Conce is planted over 106,000 acres,

yielding a crop of 24,239 tons annually. Tobacco growing is increasing. The 1901 rop was 4,000 tons. The 1902 crop largest ever known on the island. Plaintains, bananas, sweet potatoes, corn, rice beans, peas, and minor fruits yielded good crops. Orange and other fruit trees have been planted and are doing

Concessions to the number of eighty for mining fron, copper, gold, salt and other minerals are in force, but only one or two in operation. Gold mining is notsuccessful so far, but valuable deposits of iron ore have been discovered. This ore is of first quality and exists in large quantities. Some copper and lead de-posits of god quality have been located. Eleven hundred and seventy kilometers of telegraph lines were operated during the year, of which 140 kilometers was wire erected in the year. Twentynew wire created in the year. Twenty-nine offices are in operation, 192,025 com-mercial messages passed over these lines, producing \$23,054, an increase of \$2,075. A schol of telegraphy for girls is open and he applications for admission are nu-

The present Venezuelan troubles, and the oft occurring, and more often threat-ened disturbances in the countries south of us, the inevitable isthmian canal under American ownership and control, and other obvious considerations, force the conclusion that Porto Rico is an immensely valuable asset, even from a strategic point of view alone. Helping to build up its prosperity and intelligence will enable our posterity to say for us, as we say of our forefathers, "they builded better than they knew." Walter J. Bollard.

## Outline Studies of Human Nature

Mr. Cortelyou's Start.

The probable appointment of Mr. Cor-telyou, secretary to the president, to the telyou, secretary to the president, to the head of the new department of commerce, brings him in the public gaze more strongly than ever. Mr. Cortelyou's rise to a cabinet position has been rapid and unusual. There is a man out in Ottumwa, Ia., a quiet citizen retired from active life, who by a very small act turned Mr. Cortelyou into the path which has led him steadily up to the present has led him steadily up to the present remarkable career. This man was en-tering the office of his brother in New York one day when he narrowly missed olliding with a young man whose seem ingly desperately discouraged state of mind made him careless of his direction. When the gentleman stepped into the of-fice he questioned his brother as to what he had done to the young man to eause him to be so downhearted.

"I did nothing," was the answer, "except to tell him that I had nothing for him to do. He applied for work."

"What can he do?"
"Ho is a stenographer."
"Send your office boy after him immediately;" which was very quickly done, and young Mr. Cortelyou (for he it was) stood before the two men. "You are a stenographer?" was asked of him. "Yes, sir."

It is needless to say that Mr. Cortelyou hurried. He got the place.—Philadelphia Saturday Evening Post.

A Colombian Exaction.

A significant story of the conditions prevailing in the part of South America where revolutions are periodical is told by Peter MacQueen, the Boston traveler, emispheres. "I was getting ready to leave a small

town in Colombia," said MacQueen, "when a very much uniformed official waited on me.
"'Senor,' said he, politely, 'I undertand that you have decided to leave us "I admitted that my intention wa

" 'Senor,' he continued, deferentially, 'I have called to remind your excellency that there is a charge of \$10 gold made for the privilege of leaving."
"I looked at the man in utter amazement for a moment; then I inquired what

eason was alleged for this piece of rob-"Ah. Senor, there is no reason. "As I was anxious to catch the boat I paid the \$10; but I own I was disturbed when I got back to New York to hear the New York police called 'The Finest.' '

#### New York Tribune. De Pachmann a Critic.

Viadimir De Pachmann was a great musician, but not noted for his modesty, if we credit some new stories about him which are related to a New York musi-cal critic. One of these relates that on certain social and artistic occasion in London, Paclimann, Dohmanyi, Buson and Rosenthal played each for the entertainment of the others. After it was all over Pachmann was quietly asked to give his opinion of all the performers. To this he made answer thus; "Dohmanyi plays like a youth, healthy, broad; Busoni plays Bach like a man, intellectually; Rosenthal plays swiftly..." "And Pachmann?"

Pachmann, he is more youthful than Dohmanyi, more intellectual than Busoni, plays swifter than Rosenthal, and—he also plays like Pachmann."

A clergyman who had neglected all knowledge of nautical affairs was asked to deliver an address before an audienc sages of life. Thinking he could make his remarks more pertinent to his hearers by metaphorically using sea expression

"Now friends, you know that when yo are at sea in a storm the thing you do A half-concealed snicker spread over the room, and the clergyman knew that

he had made a mistake. After the services one of his listeners ame to him and said: "Mr. ---, have you ever been at sea?" The minister replied: "No; unless it was while I was delivering that address."— Philadelphia Ledger.

## Crowd Not For Him.

Tom Ochiltree related that while was a representative in congress from Texas, and returning to his home from Pexas, and returning to his nome from Washington, he observed a large crowd at the station. When the train stopped he stepped upon the platform and start-ed to address the crowd. He began: "Gentlemen, I thank you for this wel-

Thunder!" interrupted constituent. "Henry Bacon has just committed suicide in the station."—New

The Way He Traveled. Professor Powers, of Cornell's political economy department, was discussing the changed attitude that people have as-sumed (and in his opinion rightly as-

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onvention," he said, "the delegates were talking on that subject, when an old graybeard arose and exclaimed angrily to the presiding bishop: 'I suppose you came here in a private car.' 'Yes.' the ame here in a private car.' 'Yes,' the dishop answered, 'do you know any way nore comfortable?' -- Cleveland Plain

## Told of Mascagni.

The recently published cartoon, "The Rival Serenaders," reminded a musician of a story which Mascagni is fond of re-lating of himself. While in London he ran across an organ grinder playing the atermezzo from "Cavalleria" in a very nechanical way. Mascagni stepped up to "Cavalleria" in a the operator and said to him: "Let me show you how to play that." Taking hold of the crank, he finished

the movement "con molto espressione."

Quite a crowd had collected, and the instructor soon slunk away in embar-rassment. But one of the onlookers aprectated the situation and approaching he organ man, asked him: "Do you know who that was showing you how to play that piece?" The grinder confessed ignorance; he was at once informed and seemed greatly pretty much astonished to meet the same pleased. The next day Mascagai was outlit, the organ bearing a rude placard reading, "Pupil of Pietro Mascagat."—New York Times.

## Stopped in the Middle.

Peter McArthur, talking about a novel-ist who was arranging for the dramati-zation of a novel that he had not yet completed, remarked:
"He's a good deal like a Canadian friend of mine who went hunting with a dog. The trip was all right for a time, but there came a sudden end when the sumed) toward the conveniences and the dog undertook to jump over a deep well luxuries of life. "At a Methodist church at two jumps."—New York Times.

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