

PRESS OPINIONS.

THE RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR AND THE MASSACRE.

Chicago Evening Post (Rep.), May 20.—Count Cassini's statement in "explanation" of the massacre at Kishineff was indecent and revolting. It amounted to this: The Jews are usurers, money lenders and exploiters of the poor peasants. Their victims occasionally lose patience and an explosion occurs. The conflict is between the Jewish oppressor and the downtrodden peasant, and the government, with the best will in the world, cannot prevent reprisals. The defense would be absurd and puerile if its premises were true. But they are absolutely false. Count Cassini is ignorant of the laws and regulations of his own country, and his statements are mere echoes of the abominable and impudent lies of the anti-Semitic press of which one judges him to be an assiduous reader. The peasant is effectually protected by the benevolent government from the alleged predatory tendencies of the Jews. The latter are prohibited from living in the villages of the "pale" and from engaging in the pursuits which would bring them into close business relation with the peasants. They are not allowed to own land in the villages. They are excluded from most of the liberal professions, and to the great majority of them even ordinary education is rendered a luxury by discrimination and arbitrary restrictions. To say that any considerable number of them are bankers and money lenders is to indulge in riotous and malignant nonsense. The whole Cassini "interview" is a farrago of falsehoods, insults and perversions of notorious facts.

BRYAN AT ST. LOUIS.

Johnstown (Pa.) Democrat (Dem.), May 14.—That was a pretty small piece of business which the managers of the dedicatory exercises of the Louisiana Purchase exposition displayed in snubbing Mr. Bryan. He had been invited to attend and had a right to expect decent treatment. But when he found that he was not going to receive it, when he discovered that it was designed publicly to slight and humiliate him, he wisely remained in the background. It is now apparent that the exercises were not without political design. The programme was so arranged as to exploit both Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Cleveland. The former was there as the champion of his own policies and Mr. Cleveland's presence was hailed from ocean to ocean by the plutocratic press as a sort of challenge to "Bryanism." His visit was made the occasion of starting a third term boom for the ex-president; and organs of monopoly were particular to keep him in the limelight and to give the impression that the people were delirious with enthusiasm wherever he showed himself. That the exposition people went out of their way to snub Mr. Bryan is practically admitted by the Kansas City Times. It jeers at him because he resented the treatment accorded him. Yet if all Mr. Bryan's friends should remain away from the exposition as a protest against the indecent behavior of its management toward the gifted Nebraskan the success of that enterprise might be seriously impaired.

GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS.

Nashville Daily News (Dem.), May 11.—Rather than suffer the continued domination of the railroads, it were better to have a full and complete revolution in public utilities—state, county and municipal—and place them all under governmental control. If it be expedient for the government to expend money on rivers and harbors, why should it not make expenditures for railroads?

GEORGE FRED WILLIAMS.

Johnstown (Pa.) Democrat (Dem.), May 12.—Democratic Democrats throughout the

country will welcome the news that George Fred Williams, of Massachusetts, is to be urged for the Democratic presidential nomination by the democratic Democracy of New England. He merits and is certain to receive most cordial consideration at the hands of a party in whose recent battles he has borne so conspicuous and so honorable a part. Probably next to Tom L. Johnson Mr. Williams is the most popular Democrat mentioned seriously in connection with the nomination.

MISCELLANY

"I GREW OLD THE OTHER DAY."

I grew old the other day
And I waked uneasily.
Then I thought: This need not be;
By and by we shall not say,
I grew old the other day.
—Timothy Otis Paine.

OUR FOREIGN POPULATION.

Miss Jane Addams, of Hull House, Chicago, before a joint meeting of Women's clubs in Boston, as reported in the Chicago Chronicle.

There are few who know how much good these immigrants bring with them, the love of art and useful accomplishments for which they find no market.

I know a man in Chicago who was put out of his rooms in a tenement because he had carved his door in the evenings when he came home weary from work and sought to tell what there was better in him. It was exquisite work, the same he had done in a church in Italy, he said proudly, which is double-starred in Baedeker. Another had trouble with his landlord because he decorated his ceiling with stucco. This man said that he had been paid for such work at home, but he supposed he ought not to have attempted it here, where the "American people like everything smooth and such a queer white." These men were artists, but they were not appreciated in their new surroundings.

The children are eager to learn, and in many families they have adequate instructors in their parents, from whom they have inherited artistic tastes, but they grow ashamed of it, as they see that it has no reward, and they lose their heritage in our materialistic surroundings.

We once had a Greek play in Hull house, played by the fruit peddlers, who are laborers in the summer time. We found out that these Greeks knew and had read the stories of Homer, and they were delighted to play before the Americans, that they might illustrate and emphasize the fact that they were not barbarians. One man always prayed before rehearsing his part, and I asked him the reason for his

prayer. He told me that he prayed for power to properly present the honor and glory of ancient Greece to the ignorant people of America, and he was absolutely sincere.

We very freely express our opinion of the immigrants to this country, but we don't always stop to think or to question what they may think of us. The answers would be informative and useful.

UNCLE SAM'S LETTERS TO JOHN BULL.

HE IS NOT PLEASED WITH MILITARISM.
Printed from the original MS.

Dear John: Your chancellor of the exchequer made the statement the other day, on introducing the annual budget, that if other nations wished to reduce their navy, Great Britain was fully ready to follow suit. There, John, I'm with you! That's the kind of an alliance that strikes me as better than supportin' you in raids agin republics and the like.

This whole military business is un-American and agin the grain with me. I used to brag that I had no standin' army—had but 10,000 men, and there was room a-plenty for them to sit down; but now I've a whin of soldiers, and I am not satisfied. Worst of all, my Republican administration's got the idea that it's a credit, and have been actually paradin' them down at St. Louis. Now I'm of two minds about it. A military parade in war time is one thing; but in peace it's another. Troops are the symbol of death, and to my notion, have no business nor proper place in a joyous civic show. Why, the dickens, don't they turn out the hearses, too, if they want it real cheerful!

There never was any sense, anyway, in turning my nation into a war camp, like Europe. The old signers of the Declaration tried to get away from that. But my capitalists conspired together for imperialism, bought up all the great papers, and set them to teachin' it, and now they are carryin' it into the common schools. The Democrats are noticin' the first, but they have not caught onto the school dodge yet; but all the school papers in America (papers to instruct teachers how and what to teach) are loaded with imperialism and militarism.

I'm havin' some fun, though, in my politics. My Republicans and gold Democrats are naming presidential candidates for the Democratic party, and running them fiercely in the *Republican* newspapers. It's great