

the two principal parties. Leaders in both parties being opposed to the measure for the same reason, namely, that they are interested in landed speculations which the Bucklin amendment would have enabled the people of each county to reach by means of taxation—it was easy to bribe the election judges of both parties without seeming to bribe anybody. Back, therefore, at the very beginning of the count, right in the voting precincts, the infamous work of falsifying the ballot began. As no one represented the interests of the amendment in voting precincts where both political parties opposed it, the election judges of those parties were able to make almost any returns they pleased. And this opportunity was not neglected. In at least one Denver district the judges having forgotten to count the ballots filled in their returns at a guess, with 23 for and 23 against. They at least held the scales evenly. But on good authority it is stated that hundreds of votes were fraudulently counted against the amendment on Capitol Hill, and specifically that in one precinct there the negative vote of 43 was returned by the election judges as 143.

Nor were the frauds confined to the Denver county. They appear to have spread all over the State of Colorado, excepting only a few counties in which the Democratic officials supported the measure and prevented false counting and doctored returns. Conejos county, for instance, returned an adverse vote of 2,128 to 62. This is a Mexican county, and according to the returns nearly all the Mexican voters must have voted on the amendment—something very improbable. In Huerfano county the vote was reported as 1,981 against the amendment and 78 for it. This is one of the counties in which the Colorado Fuel and Iron company owns the laboring population and votes their names at will. It doesn't even go to the trouble of sending its laborers to the polls and watching them. It keeps them at work, leaving to the election

officers the function of casting the ballots. These functionaries copy names into the poll books—such probable names, for example, as William Boxcar and John Tie—and put the ballots into the boxes themselves. The Colorado Fuel and Iron company controls 11 counties in the southern part of the State. In Pueblo and El Paso counties, which, with Arapahoe, contain all the large cities—localities where the largest votes for the amendment were doubtless cast—the election judges' returns were altered as at Denver.

As the large newspapers of Colorado of both parties were opposed to the Bucklin amendment, they are taking infinite pains to minimize these exposures, but they are forced to concede enough to show that the frauds are stupendous. Senator Bucklin is convinced that the conceded frauds in Arapahoe (Denver) county were not much if any worse than elsewhere throughout the State, and now regards it as doubtful that the amendment was really defeated. Steps have already been taken by Edwin N. Burdick, in Denver, who is cooperating with Senator Bucklin, to secure an investigation and a recount; and criminal proceedings against the Denver rascals, little and big, are delayed only by the fact that the grand jury is not now in session.

Press dispatches from Manila tell every now and then of the lawless exploits of "ladrones." As "ladrones" are thieves, the intention is to convey to American readers the impression that disturbances in the Philippines are confined to the operations of bands of highwaymen. But it begins to look as if these are bands of what, were we Filipinos, we should call patriots instead of thieves. For illustration, the latest dispatch on the subject reads in this wise:

In the province of Bulacan it is understood that a band of 300 ladrones, led by an American Negro, are scheming to wipe out the constabulary, and that four miles out from the town of Clacocan four American blacks are engaged in drilling a large number of highwaymen in mil-

itary tactics and training them in the use of firearms. Because of the increasing activity of the ladrones the continued withdrawal and concentration of troops in the islands is causing apprehension among the inhabitants of many provinces, who have depended wholly upon the military for protection. Ladrones are said to be notoriously bold and numerous in Rizal, and the president of that province recently called on Adj. Gen. Heistand for relief. He also has appealed to Gov. Taft.

That report does not describe the depredations of thieves. It suggests instead the operations of irreconcilables—such as are usually called "traitors" by a subjugating power and "patriots" by their fellow partisans. In the estimation of the British, Marion's men in the South and the cowboys of New York were of this type, and would doubtless have been called "ladrones" by the London papers and letter writers had so convenient a word at that time found its way into the language. The disingenuousness of our calling Filipino patriots bands of "ladrones," as the Spanish did, is exposed by mail reports from Manila received at San Francisco on the 24th. According to these reports three of the provinces now under the civil government of Gov. Taft—Cavite, Batangas and Tayabas—are to be "placed once more under military control in order to purge them of the insurrecto element." Patriotism dies as hard in the Philippines as it would in Illinois.

— If the Christmas season were a season for unselfishly doing right instead of selfishly "doing good," what a blessed example it might set for all other seasons.

WHAT BOYS READ.

I.

The following letter came to me a few days ago:

Here's something that will interest you!

Mr. — found his office boy often engaged in reading in such an absorbed way that he determined to encourage such a good habit, thinking the reading was beneficial. On questioning the boy he was astonished to find what had occupied all his spare time. Ask-

ing for a list of books he had read recently the enclosed was obtained.

Here is an exact copy of the list, as written in the boy's own hand. In spite of numerous repetitions it should be read through, for only in this way can one get the full, cumulated effect. I copy as accurately as possible. The numbers probably refer to certain volumes in some series or "library."

- 1 James Boys or the Bandit Last Shot
- 2 Chasing the James Boys or a Detective dangerous Case
- 3 The James Boys and Pinkerton or Frank and Jesse as detective
- 4 The Man from nowhere and his adventures with Jesse
- 5 Jesse James and Siroc or a chase for a horse
- 6 The James Boys in Texas
- 25 The James Boys in deadwood.
- 30 The James Boys Blunder
- 35 The James Boys in danger
- 40 The James Boys Mistake
- 45 The James Boys Island
- 50 The James Boldest Raid
- 55 The James Boys dead Shot
- 60 The James Boys and the Box of diamonds
- 65 The James Boys Bad Luck
- 67 The James Boy Surrender or Carl Greens First Triumph.
- 68 The James Boy in the Mountain or Carl Greene the detective Great Surprise

The Bradys and the Factory Girl or a Secret of a poison envelope.

This is what you might call concentrated, or intensive, reading. There is no scattering over the broad field of adventurous heroes. With one exception—in which he has gone astray on the Bradys and the Factory Girl—the devoted young student has been as steady to his subject as ever Carlyle was to the adventurous Frederick, or Macaulay to the adventurous William, or Prof. Sloan to the adventurous Napoleon. He deserves this meed of praise. He has followed the advice so often given to youthful readers, not to scatter their reading, but to choose some subject and read it up thoroughly.

The writing shows that the boy is not wholly illiterate; for while he has no marks for punctuation or the possessive, every word is spelled correctly. He has probably gone through the sixth grade of a public school, perhaps higher; and he is a type of thousands. We are turning them out in great numbers, destined

to vex the souls of Harvard's presidents years to come. We are teaching them the simple art of reading, but either from not holding the pupil long enough or from some internal defect we are not teaching taste and judgment. President Eliot was right when he said lately that the products of our schools love cheap shows and gaudy literature.

II.

We need not say more about our young friend. His list speaks for itself, and we are prepared to condemn it unanimously. But the question arises, is this the only type of reading for boys that we should be ready to condemn? Is there not quite a different list of boys' books which are even more poisonous to character than books of wild and impossible adventures?

I think there is such a list, and one all the more dangerous because it poses as the very "best reading" for boys, and has the commendation of many well-meaning people. It is a type which some business men would perhaps pat office boys on the head for reading, and yet I should mention in all earnestness that it is, in its ultimate results upon character, even more harmful than books about Jesse James. I refer to the large class of juvenile literature which tends to make boys ambitious to get ahead of their fellows, and ready to worship any success, whether true or false. Such is the tone, whether intentional or not, of many books written especially for boys; and their influence helps to make sharp dealers, unscrupulous lawyers, questionable politicians, and corrupt officials. If the Jesse James books tend to make boys admire outlawry and reckless daring, the lawlessness and recklessness have at least the merit of not being hypocritical and respectable.

Between a Life of Jesse James and a Life of Jay Gould, the former would seem to me less likely to corrupt a boy's ideals. Or take the story of the head of one of our great trusts, as I heard it told to an assembly of young boys, stripped of all possible bad features, just the laudation of overtopping ambition, the worship of financial success, would not the reading of such a life, especially as

it is held up for admiration and imitation, tend far more to have a practical influence for harm in the average boy than any story of wild adventure far removed from his actual life?

But I am not apologizing for the James Boys list! Let us condemn both lists alike.

J. H. DILLARD.

NEWS

Arbitration of the issues raised by Great Britain, Germany and Italy in their war upon Venezuela (p. 581) appear at the present moment (Dec. 24) to be well within the possibilities.

To President Castro's proffer of arbitration, forwarded through the U. S. government, no reply had been received at the time of our last report, though the American government had specifically invited one (p. 582). But responses were received on the 20th from both Great Britain and Germany, through their respective ambassadors at Washington, who expressed a desire that the dispute be submitted to the arbitration of President Roosevelt. At first the President refused to act, and advised the ambassadors that the international arbitration court at The Hague is the proper tribunal for the adjustment of such disputes. But later in the day, and after a diplomatic intimation that neither the emperor of Germany nor the king of Great Britain were willing to submit the matter to The Hague tribunal, the President took the original proposition under advisement. On the following day President Castro signified his willingness to accept Mr. Roosevelt as arbitrator, and on the 22d diplomatic notes were delivered at Berlin and London to the American diplomatic representatives there, formally inviting President Roosevelt to accept the responsibility. Italy imitated the example of Great Britain and Germany on the 23d. Nothing further had been reported up to the morning of the 24th, except that a lengthy and important communication, explaining the British views of the arbitration proposal, is now on its way from London to Washington. It was delivered to the American charge d'affaires at London on the 23d by Lord Lansdowne, British secretary for foreign affairs, and by the former at once transmitted.