

The Public

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Dr. E. A. Spitzka, the New York alienist, appeals to the noted successful men of the country to leave their brains by will to scientists for post-mortem examination. Why not make the same request of noted unsuccessful men? The brains of both will be needed for comparison before valid conclusions can be drawn. But suppose that such comparisons reveal no differences—what then?

About the remark of Prof. Robinson, of the McCormick Theological seminary, that such a democratic process is going on that when he walks the streets his pupils whom he meets do not look upon him as any better than they are themselves, the important thing is his saying it. These sentiments are common with men of his class and cloth, but he has had either the courage or the dullness to give them unguarded expression. Such candor is welcome. Democracy always fights best in the open.

Our Cuban proteges have been treated to an exhibition of the good old English writ of habeas corpus, which we as Americans have been taught to believe is one of the safeguards of liberty. A judge in Havana issued it for a prisoner in the custody of Gov. Gen. Wood. But Gov. Gen. Wood treated it with the indifference that the English exemplars of divine right used to. He ignored the writ, and shipped his prisoner to the United States. Another valuable lesson for the Cubans in the science of self-government.

In an article in the Commoner on gambling, respectable and otherwise,

Mr. Bryan lays, incidentally, the only firm foundation for human society, namely, "that each person shall make to society a contribution equal in value to the benefits which he receives." In that simple but pregnant sentence is embodied all economic truth. To depart from the principles of that declaration is to mire in the quicksands; to build upon them and by them is to establish economic justice.

Mr. H. O. Nourse's crusade against the large packing companies of Chicago for stealing water from the city mains has resulted in one conviction, that of the superintendent of one of the companies. He is convicted of petit larceny. The unfortunate thing about matters of this kind is that the real criminals cannot be got at. They are sheltered behind the impersonality of a corporation charter, and the criminal law finds no one to expend its force upon but some hired man to whom such crimes are all in the day's work.

Ten years ago a railroad laborer, who afterward became a freight brakeman, lent \$170 to a friend, taking as collateral an old watch and a new mortgage, the latter on 40 acres of land in Kern county, Cal. As the loan was not repaid, our Arizona workman foreclosed. But the land was valueless. No one had yet discovered how useful it could be made. Recently, however, it was found to be rich oil land, whereupon the lucky workman becomes a millionaire. Not quite so obviously, but none the less truly, all great fortunes are like this quondam workman's—a private appropriation of what by natural law and in justice is common property.

A New York judge has come to his senses, partly at least, on the subject of expert testimony in handwriting.

This "fake" of "fakes" has hypnotized the courts for a generation. Not content with admitting such testimony when the authority of a document is itself the main issue of the trial, the courts have allowed side issues, bearing upon questions of life and death, to furnish material for controversies between handwriting experts. To this practice Judge Fursman has put a stop. In the interest of justice it is to be hoped not only that the higher courts will sustain him, but that some other judge will go a step further and rule handwriting experts off the stand altogether.

To realize that the much-talked-of tariff war with Russia is not a war between this country and that, but is at bottom a quarrel over spoils between privileged classes in both countries, it is necessary only to consider the simple facts. If Russia pays sugar producers a bounty on the sugar they export, what is the real nature of the thing? Merely this, that she taxes her people in order to help along the private business of Russian sugar exporters. When our own government imposes extra duties upon Russian sugar imported into this country under bounty stimulation, what is the real nature of that thing? Merely this, that it compels our people to pay in taxes upon Russian sugar enough to make it just a little cheaper for them to buy sugar trust sugar. And when Russia retaliates by putting heavy import taxes upon American steel products, what is the real nature of that? Nothing more nor less than an arbitrary order that her people must go without these products, or pay exorbitant prices for them. Reduced to its last elements, this tariff war is merely a lifting of the lid, so that any intelligent man may see, if he takes the pains to look, what a villainous

robbery of the people for the benefit of privileged cliques and classes the whole protective system is.

As an international question, this tariff war with Russia is one in which our country is in the right, if there can be any right to what is fundamentally wrong. What we mean is that countervailing duties must be imposed by us upon bounty stimulated exports of sugar from Russia if our wretched tariff system is to be kept up at all. The American sugar trust might be completely circumvented, be wholly deprived of its tariff profits, if bounty-fed foreign sugar were admitted into this country without an extra import duty large enough to offset the advantage of the foreign bounty. And if we impose such duties upon sugar from one bounty paying country, we must impose them on sugar from all. Otherwise delicate international difficulties, promoted by "business" interests in the countries discriminated against, would assuredly arise. That is what makes it necessary to discourage the bounty-fed sugar exports of Russia with a countervailing duty. We impose countervailing duties upon the bounty-fed sugar exports of Germany, of Austria, of France, of Belgium; and consequently must be ready to do the same regarding Russia. So we must either continue to provoke Russia's retaliatory duties upon our steel trust interests, or consign our sugar trust interests to the free list. If we could turn the whole collection of tariff schedules into a free list, it would be a blessed thing for everybody—our trusts alone excepted. It is only justice to Russia, however, to acknowledge that her indirect method of giving a bounty on sugar exports—by merely remitting from the exports the internal taxes she imposes upon sugar consumed at home—is a concession to sugar exports of what ought to be conceded to all products. She allows her sugar manufactures to go into the markets of the world free from tax burdens. Would that our

protected masters would allow us to do the same, only more of it.

Apropos of the rumored consolidation of the steel trusts, the core of the trust question is touched by an editorial in a conservative newspaper, which declares that for the present— it may be said that as long as the raw materials of industry are not monopolized, there can be no monopoly of long duration in the finished products.

That is perfectly true, provided highways are regarded—as economically they must be—as raw materials of industry. What the paper in question overlooks, and in common with most other superficial students of the subject of trusts, is the fact that in the steel industry the raw materials are now monopolized. Not that all ore mines are in the trust. They are not. But all the rich mines are; and as these are amply sufficient to satisfy demand, competition by means of other mines is impossible. Besides that, the monopoly of highways has to be reckoned with.

When treasury looters fall out, the public may get some of its dues. And treasury looters in congress have fallen out over the river and harbor plunder and the ship subsidy plunder. Mr. Hanna himself became so angered at the difficulties he had encountered in his efforts to pay campaign debts with ship subsidies and thus make himself solid, "an honest man who stays bought," with the "business interests" for the next campaign, that in his speech in the senate on the 15th he suddenly exclaimed, in a loud voice:

How about the river and harbor bill? What does that contain? I make no charges against anybody, but there are things in that bill which make the ship subsidy bill pale by comparison. I say this most emphatically.

For once Mr. Hanna is right. The river and harbor steal does make the ship subsidy steal pale by comparison. But once the river and harbor steal also was a smaller steal. With time, patience, cheek and McKinleyism, it has expanded to such magnificent

proportions that Mr. Hanna notices its predatory qualities. Give the ship subsidy steal but half a chance and it will soon play a good second to the river and harbor bill in every congress.

Large employers of dependent labor are often guilty of impertinences which not unnaturally irritate and anger their tongue-tied objects. An instance was offered recently by Marshall Field & Co., of Chicago. Into the pay envelope of their employes this firm thrust a printed slip containing advice "on saving" from the pen of Russell Sage. That Russell Sage is competent to give advice on saving methods, no one doubts who knows of his mania for accumulation. But he is the last person to whom young men should be referred for advice as to the morality of saving or of anything else. And even if his example as man and citizen were worthy of emulation, it would still be an impertinence on the part of employers to thrust his advice unasked upon their adult employes. To appreciate acts like these it must be observed that they are not acts of friendship between equals. They are condescending efforts to regulate the lives of underlings, who tolerate it only because they dare not risk losing their jobs. The circumstances are such that Marshall Field & Co. virtually command their employes to read the sordid preachments of the most notorious miser of the modern kind. It is this assumption of a right to intrude upon the privacy of their employes, and not so much Sage's platitudinous, and in one respect abhorrent, advice for success in life, that offends. Mr. Field might proffer the Sage tract to a friend without offense. The friend, if sensible, would laugh at the tract, and might joke Mr. Field about his augmenting years. An employe has no such liberty. He is as helpless as when the firm orders him out on parade for political effect.

The possibilities of slavery in the guise of freedom have lately been ex-

emplified in South Carolina. By accident it has been discovered that labor contracts are made in that state which return negro workmen to a condition which, if it differs from chattel slavery, differs only for the worse. Under these contracts the laborer agrees to work under supervision upon certain terms, and "at all times to be subject to the orders and commands" of the employer, who is authorized by the contract "to use such force as he or his agents may deem necessary" to compel the laborer "to remain on the farm," including the right to lock him up "for safe-keeping," and if he should run away, "the right to offer a reward" for his capture, such reward to be deducted from his wages. The employer is empowered also "to transfer his interest in this contract to any other party." This system of serfdom is in general use in at least one South Carolina county. The facts came out in a murder trial at Columbia, in which one Newell, a convict farmer, was charged with the murder of a negro named Hull. Newell had complained to a magistrate that Hull refused to carry out one of these labor contracts which Newell held. The magistrate thereupon issued a warrant for Hull, and placed it in Newell's hands for execution. Newell arrested Hull and took him to his convict "stockade," where he held and worked 18 convicts. Here Hull was treated like the convicts, and upon attempting to leave, was shot dead in his tracks. Upon these facts Newell was tried for murder. The result of his trial has not come to our attention; but the circumstances led the trial judge to charge the grand jury most earnestly to make a full investigation. The resemblance of this labor contract practice to the worst features of slavery is very marked, and the practice has a significance that extends beyond the confines of South Carolina and reaches to others than individuals of the negro race. There is a growing army of men everywhere, white and black, whose opportunities for making a livelihood are so meager that

they would gladly sign labor contracts like those quoted from above. Let this army but grow a little larger, and its members become a little more desperate and obtrusive, and public opinion would readily countenance the summary enforcement of such labor contracts. Through that door lies the reestablishment of a system of slavery in support of which there already exists the makings of a strong sentiment among the comfortable classes.

With some flourish of journalistic trumpets it is announced through the press that one of John D. Rockefeller's daughters is studying industrial problems in a fashionable young woman's school of New York. That news would be encouraging if there were any reason to suppose that the instruction were serious and the instructors courageous. The indications are, however, that this is only another fad, like the heartless and brainless slumming fad of a few years ago. Its keynote question appears to be, How shall employers improve the condition of their employes? Miss Rockefeller, however genuine and earnest, may study that question until she dies of old age and a plethora of wealth without making any further real progress than the daughter of Robert Toombs would have made half a century ago had she joined a class of Georgia aristocrats to study how masters might improve the condition of their slaves.

A fine modern type of the old-fashioned inquisitor who accelerated the administration of justice with thumb screws and the like, is Mr. Senior, the recorder of Paterson, N. J. His torture machine was up to date, for he operated it with electricity. But the squeamishness of some of his townsmen has compelled him to remove it from the court. Mr. Senior's torture appliance came to public knowledge through its use in the case of an Italian charged with forgery. The Italian asserted his innocence. The evidence was hazy and weak. But the

prosecutor was certain, as usual, of his guilt. So the recorder, personating Justice, pulled the bandage from his eyes, laid his sword upon the bench, and dropping his scales, ran a strong electric current into the brass rail upon which the prisoner was resting his hands. As the current caught and held him while it vibrated through his body, the prisoner yelled, as many an innocent but cowardly victim of torture in the middle ages had done before him: "I did it! I did it!" Whether he really did it or not, no one but himself knows. But he was promptly convicted, and Recorder Senior has his own opinion of the weakness of a people who object to so simple and effective a method of securing criminal convictions.

Judge Dunne, of Chicago, has made a suggestion regarding the constitutional obstacles to local self-government in this western metropolis, which would, if adopted, settle all the difficulties with which the city contends, and without involving the expense and uncertainties of a constitutional convention. He proposes a constitutional amendment to which no fair objection can be interposed. It consists merely in supplementing the clause in the present constitution which forbids special legislation, with these words:

Save and except that in all cases where any common council of any city or any board of county commissioners of any county or 25 per cent. of the voters of any city or county shall request the passage of any law applicable only to such city or municipality, the legislature shall have the power to enact the law so requested, said law not to take effect, however, until submitted to popular vote in said city or municipality and a majority of voters thereof shall approve the passage of the same.

The only improvement that might be desired in Judge Dunne's proposed constitutional amendment is a requirement that questions shall be submitted to the people upon the demand by petition of a much smaller proportion of voters than 25 per cent., and that when 25 per cent. vote for it in principle, it shall be mandatory

upon the legislature to frame and submit a statute for final adoption. Judge Dunne asks why this simple amendment does not cover completely all the needs of a city like Chicago. It does. And it is in harmony with the line along which public opinion is forcing legislation. It would tend to establish home rule.

Mark Twain is severely criticized by friends of Dr. Ament, the Chinese missionary, for his condemnation of that gentleman's exploit in levying contributions upon Chinese villages with a "mailed hand." The missionary's friends protest that Dr. Ament "appealed" to the head men and the people of these villages for redress for the destruction by Boxers of the homes of Chinese Christians, and, to quote one of them, that "the villagers responded nobly to this appeal." That response must have been a sight for the gods. A whole people aroused to madness by foreign intrusion, and native Christians despised and hated and assailed as perverts to foreign superstitions; yet a foreign missionary collects from Chinese villages a large fund to reimburse these Chinese perverts for their losses, and does it by moral suasion alone! If that story were true, it would go far to prove that Chinese villagers are morally head and shoulders above other races of men. But it is much to be feared that Mark Twain's estimate of Dr. Ament's exploit is correct. All the probabilities point to the good doctor's use, in addition to moral suasion, of something like immoral threats.

That eminent professional regulator of poor people's lives, Jacob Riis, has been studying the inhabitants of Chicago's First ward, with a view to the possibilities of putting them under plutocratic tutelage. Having made observations at a ball of the First Ward Democratic association, he sagaciously concludes that these people are not fit to govern the most valuable two square miles west of the Alleghanies, and suggests that the owners of First ward property

should, regardless of where they live, be allowed to vote for First ward aldermen. This is the old British landlord idea of a vote to every landlord wherever he owns land. It is the manifest political evil which Anglo-Saxon common sense has resisted under the cry of "one man, one vote." Government is for men, not for valuable lots. When consulted about Mr. Riis's plutocratic proposition, several Chicago property owners thought it excellent. But one sensible downtown merchant, Otto Young, of the Fair, gave it a quietus. "According to law," said Mr. Young, "every man who lives in the ward has a vote, and that is all there is to it; you can't take his vote away from him, and you can't give a vote to a man who lives outside the ward." Mr. Young's remark is true, whether stated as matter of law or of good American horse sense. If the First ward property owners wish to vote in the First ward, they have only to move into it. As yet, men and not property are the voters in this country. That is a condition, however, which plutocrats, rich plutocrats and poor ones, are extremely anxious to reverse.

The disposition of the senate to retain the check stamp tax is another indication of the indifference of lawmakers to the rights of that part of the community which cannot or does not make its demands known forcibly. This stamp tax is a burden upon the ordinary man. To rich men it makes no difference. Their checks are so large that a two-cent tax on each is less than a bagatelle. And it is no inconvenience to them to invest ten dollars or more in books of ready-stamped checks. Even if it were, they have clerks to draw their checks; and the clerks would suffer all the bother of affixing and cancelling. Not so with the man of small means, who nevertheless uses checks for his payments, as all business men should. Unless he spends ten dollars in a lump sum for a stamped check book, he must "lick" and stick and cancel stamps every time he draws a check; and as

his checks are small, the tax of two cents on each is out of all proportion to the tax upon rich men's checks.

Addressing "the man with the hoe," by way of inculcating a general lesson on capital, that unique and bright little publication of New York, "The Straight Edge," says:

Do not imagine that your debt to all those fellow men and to those other thousands who have lived and died and left the products of their brain and skill to swell the common capital of the race, is paid when you hand 50 cents over the counter for a hoe!

The debt referred to is described as running against "the man with the hoe"—

to the brain and skill of thousands upon thousands of his fellow men, from the prehistoric inventor down to the miner who digs the iron out of the earth, the machinist who forges and tempers it, the woodsman who fells the tree from which the handle is made, the workman who turns the handle, the railroad that transports the products, with all the innumerable gangs of workmen who have a part in making the miner's pick and shovel, the machinist's forge and tools, the woodsman's ax and wagon, the turner's lathe and chisels, the railroad's engines and cars and signals and warehouses, etc.

But why is not that debt all paid when "the man with the hoe" hands 50 cents over the counter for that implement?

It is a very common thing for men of socialistic trend of mind to say that the debt is not paid, and to think so. The idea is common, too, with the university cult of economists and sociologists, whose chief aim in life it seems to be to blur the primary distinctions and obscure the elementary differences between mine and thine and ours. But we have yet to be shown in any rational way why "the man with the hoe" does not discharge all economic obligations when he hands his 50 cents over the counter for it. Being "the man with the hoe," he earns that 50 cents. It represents less than the value of his labor rather than more. Consequently, he starts fair. And as the merchant who sells him the hoe charges him 50 cents, that sum must fully represent all that has been paid for the labor of making

it and bringing it to the counter. That those who have contributed to this work have been underpaid, may be at once conceded. But they have been paid all that they were able to exact, and if they were crippled in their bargaining that raises a deeper yet simpler question than "The Straight Edge" suggests, and one which is foreign to the particular point here considered—the question of the buyer's title to the hoe. In the 50 cents that he hands over he satisfies every worker's exaction from miner and woodman to retail merchant.

But what about the "prehistoric inventor," and those "thousands who have lived and died and left the products of their brain and skill to swell the common capital of the race?" The simple and sufficient answer is that none of these made that particular hoe. Though they made other hoes, thus swelling the capital of the past which has been exhausted, they did not swell existing capital. What they really did for the buyer of the hoe was to swell the fund of human knowledge. From that fund we may draw if we will. From it the miner and the woodman, the machinist, the transporter, the merchant, all who figure in this illustration, have drawn; and their labor in doing so is more or less fully (according to circumstances not involved in this question of title) represented in the retail price of the hoe. As to the fund of knowledge itself, those dead and gone saints of industry who helped to heap it up make no charge for it. If anybody else does, it is because some law or social institution gives them a special privilege which ought to be abolished. Except for monopolies of that sort, the knowledge of the race is as free as air, subject only to the labor necessary to make it one's own—an appropriation which tends to increase rather than diminish the fund. To attempt to rest the economically confused and morally confusing doctrine of common ownership of labor products, upon the contributions of a dead past

to the race's fund of common knowledge, is to go far afield bringing nothing home.

Voters who supported McKinley at the late election but oppose imperialism, are invited to correspond with John A. O'Connor, box 212 Madison square branch, New York city, with a view to petitioning congress to adopt toward the Philippine islands the principles of the Cuban resolution of April 18, 1898, which we reprinted last week. There are some voters, doubtless, who fall into this category, though it is not altogether to the credit of their political intelligence. But the voters who put country above party by making this petition in the only effective way in which it could be made, by voting for Bryan, will appreciate even a late arrival of the rear guard, and welcome a long petition through Mr. O'Connor's agency.

North Carolina now furnishes its quota to the accumulating evidence of "prosperity." Cotton mill owners there have locked out organized labor and with the aid of non-union workmen maintained their lockout for months, so plentiful is the supply of labor seeking employment. The job that was hunting the man during the campaign last fall will find game abundant in North Carolina now.

John J. Lentz rendered a needed service Wednesday on the floor of congress. The occasion was the discussion of a proposition to pay not more than \$50 each for the capture of army deserters. Mr. Lentz took advantage of the opportunity to direct the attention of the house to the reports of barbarities perpetrated by American troops upon the Filipinos, which, he said, had so disgusted soldiers with humane sentiments as to account for their desertion. With reference to these barbarities he added: "If that is the sort of civilization that is being carried into the Philippines, it would take \$5,000 to prevent our soldiers from deserting." The

reply of the imperialists in the house was characteristic. Their spokesman was Congressman Cannon, of Illinois, a bellicose patriot who is ever ready to make sanguinary sacrifices upon the altar of his country with other people's blood. Mr. Cannon made no attempt to refute Lentz's charges of barbarity. He asked for no investigation into their truth. What he did was to call Lentz a traitor for making the charges. "You're a parallelogram!" said Dr. Johnson to the fishwife. The exact words of Mr. Cannon were:

Protected by his position in the American congress, the gentleman from Ohio has uttered words which, if he had uttered as an American citizen in the Philippine islands he would have been subject to drumhead court-martial and sentenced to be shot—and properly so."

At that the imperialist members in the house applauded vociferously. But what better confirmation of his charges could Lentz have desired? If an American in the Philippines can expose barbarous practices upon the natives by our troops, only at the risk of drumhead court-martial and military execution, though there is no legal war in progress, then it is high time that all congressmen who are patriots by some better token than the button they wear, take advantage of the privileges of their position to denounce the startling advances that imperial militarism is making.

The resolution of the lower house of the Illinois legislature to investigate Dowie's private bank and projected lace factory is an unwarranted invasion of private rights which it is to be hoped the courts will be courageous enough to stop. Not in the interest of Dowie, especially, but in the interest of the private rights of everybody, which are jeopardized by this proceeding. Dowie's bank and factory are not public institutions. They are as private as dry goods stores. There is no complaint that they are defrauding or oppressing. Everybody who puts money into either does so of his own accord. For all that

we know, they may be stupendous frauds. But that is none of our business, nor of the legislature's, nor of anybody's but the depositors and investors—and they do not complain.

OUR REOBEANT PRESS.

In spite of the general diffusion of intelligence it is perhaps no exaggeration to say that the majority of the people of the United States read little or nothing besides the daily newspapers. In their busy lives they find no time and feel small inclination to read from day to day more than the record of current events that the papers place at their disposal for one cent, or two, or at the most, three. From the daily press are derived their political opinions, their knowledge of literature and history, largely their views of life. On its columns must depend the popular preacher, the ambitious politician and all aspirants for fame, lest while they are reaching hundreds by voice their rivals address tens of thousands through the newspapers. Of all the powers of the land, the press to-day is the most mighty. It educates the young, it molds public opinion, it masters legislatures and presidents.

And yet upon what evil days has it, in this age of triumphant commercialism, fallen. No longer can a Greeley or a Bennett start with paltry resources on a great journalistic career. Newspaper proprietors must be men of millions or men with first of all the capacity to make millions. One of the most honorable of professions has become one of the most sordid of businesses. The sanctum has been degraded to a mere counting-room annex. The till yawns ever, esurient, edacious. The pen labors for its repletion.

The daily newspapers of the United States may be roughly divided into two classes—the old line and the new. There are gradations, of course, all the way from the dulllest gray to the brightest yellow, and the two classes are connected by a half-way, nondescript style of journal that belongs to both rather than to neither; but for purposes of characterization the one division will hold.

To glance first at the old-line pa-

pers: Here are dignity, reserve, taste, regard for the proprieties of life. The news is presented with due regard to proportion and coherence. Book reviews and dramatic critiques are able and discriminating. Literary ability is not wanting. But these merits, abundantly though they may satisfy the average prosperous and conservative citizen, are outweighed by the service that these journals render to plutocracy. The writing staff, from editor-in-chief to youngest reporter, are, willingly or not, retainers in the House of Monopoly. Of this every column affords its proof, alike in what it contains and in what, designedly, it does not contain. The demonstration culminates on the editorial page, where is displayed a past-mastership in the art of special pleading, of suppressing the true and suggesting the false, of making the worse appear the better reason. The thoughtful reader can but exclaim with Pope:

See skulking Truth to her old cavern fled,
Mountains of casuistry heaped o'er
her head.

Ever ready to cry "Demagogue!" and "Fanatic!" at those who dissent from their blood-rusted formulas; always seeing in the stone thrown by the striker a graver crime than in the breaking of statutes, the bribery of legislators and the robbery of the public by the corporation that employed him; ever faithful to the cause of unjust privileges and entrenched spoliation, what wonder is it that it is only prosperous and conservative citizens who are now influenced by the utterances of the old-line journals, and that to find utterances that carry weight with the many recourse must be had to journals of the newer, more sensational school?

To turn to these is to be at once repelled. Here vulgarity caters to ignorance, and there results a nightmarish product of freak typography, bad illustrations, slovenly syntax and literary slush. Contempt for private rights, rampant mendacity and truculent flunkeyism are distinguishing features. All sense of proportion is lost, and when a rich woman's lap dog dies the fall of a dynasty fills second place.

As offset there are usually in the news columns a fairer treatment of

radical men and measures than can be found in the old-line papers, and on the editorial page an expression of opinion, which, however crude it may be, is written with one eye at least open to the interests of the people, not with both fixed on the pocket-book of their exploiters.

This is something. Yet it has been proven abundantly that, however loud its protestations, the new journalism cannot be trusted far. It is pitched on too low a plane for uncompromising virtue, and when the crucial moment comes is generally found wanting. Even at its best it will always sidetrack social reform and political progress to revel in the details of the latest Tenderloin murder or Newport wedding.

The newspapers of the United States have twice elected a facile tool of monopoly to the presidential chair; they have deadened the popular conscience to the iniquity of the Philippine war; they have promoted the reaction to tory and imperial ideas that marks the opening of the twentieth century. Their influence is undisguisably undemocratic and un-republican.

What a field there would be in every great city for an unsubsidized, unpurchasable daily paper, which would combine with conservative methods of news gathering and presentation a fair and radical treatment of all public questions from the standpoints alone of truth, public honor and the people's interests; that would stand like a rock for democracy and progress; that would go to the root of everything and show the public just where and how it is plundered, and point the remedy.

Lacking such papers, may the progressive, independent weeklies in both city and country multiply in number and in circulation. In them rests largely hope for the future.

FRANK C. WELLS.

Brooklyn.

NEWS

South African reports of last week left Gen. De Wet and President Steyn in Cape Colony, on their way with 3,000 men to Philipstown, they having on the 10th crossed the Orange river a few miles north of Norval's

pont after escaping a trap laid for them by Lord Kitchener. These reports were unofficial, but they have since been confirmed by Lord Kitchener, who, in a dispatch of the 15th, tells of fighting De Wet on that day at an unnamed point north of Philipstown. From other later dispatches it appears that the fighting began on the 13th, and that De Wet was being gradually pushed back. On the 18th dispatches from London described him as dashing through Cape Colony with Lord Kitchener in person at his heels. Six flying columns were said to be operating against him, attempting another converging and enveloping movement. Beyond this there is nothing new.

The conduct of the war has already figured somewhat ominously in debate in the new British parliament, which on the 14th continued its first session after the recess (page 584) of January 15. King Edward opened the session, reading, on this occasion, his first speech from the throne. After ascending the throne in the house of lords, and taking the historic anti-catholic oath, the king proceeded with his speech, in which he briefly reviewed the condition of the empire, saying, with reference to the war in South Africa:

The war in South Africa is not yet entirely terminated, but the capitals of the enemy and its principal lines of communication are in my possession, and measures have been taken which will, I trust, enable my troops to deal effectually with the forces by which they are still opposed. I greatly regret the loss of life and expenditure of treasure due to the fruitless guerrilla warfare maintained by Boer partisans in the former territories of the two republics. Their early submission is much to be desired in their own interests, as until it takes place it will be impossible for me to establish in those colonies the institutions which will secure the equal rights of all the white inhabitants and protection and justice to the native population.

On the subject of appropriations he said:

The estimates for the year will be laid before you. Every care has been taken to limit their amount, but the naval and military requirements of the country, and especially the outlay consequent upon the South African war, have involved an inevitable increase.

Upon returning to their own chamber the commons debated the ministerial address in reply to the king's

speech, the principal subject of the debate being the war policy in South Africa. In the heat of debate on this subject on the 19th, a debate in which young Churchill and Secretary Chamberlain participated in support of the ministry, John Dillon precipitated an issue over the refusal of the under secretary of state for foreign affairs to respect the practice of cross-examining undersecretaries, which has prevailed in parliament. He refused to answer questions without formal written notice, doing so in obedience to the direction of the ministry. Thereupon Mr. Dillon moved an adjournment, which seems to have made an issue with the ministry over their new rule, though exactly how or why is not clear from the dispatches, and upon that issue the ministry was saved from defeat by a majority of only 45, when their normal majority is 130.

When we last referred to affairs in China (page 697) an agreement between the powers and the Chinese plenipotentiaries had been made under which certain punishments of specified anti-foreign leaders were to be inflicted by the Chinese government. Three were to be sentenced to death, with a commutation of the death sentence to banishment; three already dead were to be sentenced to death posthumously; and six were to be actually decapitated. This agreement has since been repudiated by the empress. A dispatch of the 15th from Peking tells of the receipt from her court of a brief note declaring the agreement impossible to meet, withdrawing powers of initiative from the Chinese plenipotentiaries, and positively refusing the infliction of any further punishment than the decapitation of Yu Hsien, governor of Shansi province, and permission to Prince Chwang to commit suicide. The same dispatch explains that the royal signature to this note had been secured by coercion, the whole court being hopelessly in the power of the principal anti-foreign leaders whose punishment is demanded by the powers. The foreign ministers have announced to the Chinese plenipotentiaries that negotiations can proceed only upon the basis of the original agreement. In consequence of this hitch in the negotiations the German field marshal, Waldersee, who is in nominal command of the allied forces, has urged the military chiefs of the different powers to co-

operate in an expedition, the object of which is supposed to be the capture of the emperor and the empress dowager with their court officials, who are at Siang-Fu in Shensee province, far in the interior. Gen. Chaffee, commander of the American forces in China, was instructed from Washington on the 18th to make an effort to secure the abandonment of Waldersee's expedition; and on the 20th a further note from the Chinese plenipotentiaries to the ministers of the allied powers was taken to indicate the abandonment by the Chinese court of its defiant attitude of the 15th.

From the Philippines the reports of the week relate chiefly to American attempts at civil organization. The province of Pangasinan was organized on the 17th with the following officers and salaries: Governor, Perfecto Sison, \$2,000; secretary, Romo Paclet, \$1,500; treasurer, Capt. Hardeeman, \$2,500; supervisor, Capt. Maloney, \$2,000; fiscal, Ignacio Villamor, \$1,500. There are some reports, however, of surrenders and of fighting. The fighting in the Island of Luzon for the week ending on the 17th is summed up as approximating 20 skirmishes, in which 25 Filipino officers and 330 men, with 350 rifles, 70 other arms, and 5,500 rounds of ammunition were taken by the Americans. On the 18th the Thirtieth United States infantry sailed for San Francisco with 26 officers and 751 men. The remaining 1,290 men and 48 officers are thus accounted for: Twenty officers and 68 men remain in Manila; ten men were killed and 37 are absent on sick leave; the remainder were discharged or died of disease and wounds.

Appointments are announced from Washington of the following American judges for the Philippines:

Supreme Court of the Philippine Islands—C. A. Willard, Minneapolis, and J. F. Cooper, Fort Worth.

Court of First Instance of the Philippine Islands—Henry C. Bates, St. Johnsbury, Vt.; Fletcher Ladd, Lancaster, N. H.; E. F. Johnston, Ann Arbor, Mich.; L. R. Wifley, St. Louis; A. F. Odlin, San Juan, Puerto Rico.

There appears to be no legal authority for these civil judicial appointments except the president's military power as commander-in-chief of the army.

American casualties in the Philip-

piners since July 1, 1898, inclusive of the current official reports given out in detail at Washington to February 20, 1901, are as follows:

Deaths to May 16, 1900 (see page 91)	1,847
Killed reported from May 16, 1900, to the date of the presidential election, November 6, 1900	100
Deaths from wounds, disease and accident, same period	468
<hr/>	
Total deaths to presidential election	2,415
Killed reported since presidential election	36
Deaths from wounds, disease and accident, same period	159
<hr/>	
Total deaths	2,610
Wounded since July 1, 1898	2,410
<hr/>	
Total casualties since July, '98	5,020
Total casualties to last week	5,020
Total deaths to last week	2,610

War of a somewhat different kind from the sanguinary species to which so much of our space has been devoted for the past two years and more, has broken out between the United States and Russia. It is a tariff war. Our own secretary of the treasury, Mr. Gage, began it, though in compliance with an act of congress prescribing his official duty. It had appeared from the reports of American consular officers in Russia, that the Russian government pays a bounty upon sugars exported from that country. This is done indirectly by remitting from sugar exports the internal tax imposed upon sugar for home consumption. But like a direct bounty, it enables Russian exporters of sugar to the United States to pay the American import tariff and yet undersell importers from other countries, and also the American sugar trust, in the American market. The American sugar trust had provided for such contingencies by securing the insertion in the tariff law of a provision directing the secretary of the treasury to impose countervailing duties upon goods imported from abroad under the stimulation of export bounties. Accordingly, Mr. Gage decided on the 12th, proclaiming it by department circular No. 10 of the 14th, to make an increase of 35 per cent. of the present import duties on Russian sugar. Similar additional duties are imposed upon sugars from other bounty paying countries—as France, Germany, Bel-

gium, etc.; but the Russian government has decided to retaliate by imposing practically prohibitory tariffs—an average increase of about 50 per cent.—upon the principal imports into Russia from the United States. The ordinance for that purpose, sent to the Russian senate immediately upon the announcement of Mr. Gage's decision, is to take effect on the 1st of March. It affects chiefly such American manufactures as machinery, tools and other products of cast iron and steel.

There is an interesting coincidence in the fact that this tariff war, which is between Russia and the United States only nominally, being in fact a conflict of interests between the American sugar trust on one side and the American steel trusts on the other, has broken out just at the moment when the steel trusts are completing a consolidation. Rumors of this consolidation have furnished floods of newspaper gossip for several weeks, but nothing authentic has been published. We noted the rumors on pages 665 and 697. It seems reasonably probable, however, that the consolidation is now complete except in form, and that in that particular it is nearly so. Dispatches of the 15th from New York told of arrangements for filing the charter of the new corporation in Delaware; the capital stock to be \$800,000,000. The old concerns whose interests are to be consolidated in the new are the Carnegie company, the Federal Steel Co., the American Steel & Wire Co., the National Tube Co., the American Bridge Co., the Lake Superior Consolidated iron mines, the Republic Iron & Steel Co., the American Tinplate Co., the National Steel Co., and the American Steel Hoop Co. Half of the \$800,000,000 of stock, it is explained in a further dispatch of the 18th, is to be seven per cent. preferred, the other half being common; and in addition to the stock a five per cent. first mortgage debt of \$300,000,000 is to be created. Mr. Carnegie is to receive, it is understood, \$124,500,000 for his Carnegie company stock.

Kansas furnishes reports of still another kind of warfare. This war consists of the riotous demonstrations against liquor sellers to the inception of which we referred editorially (page 657) last month. In Kansas, a prohibition state, liquor selling is a crime.

Concluding, therefore, that the goods and appurtenances of liquor sellers used in that business are not lawful property, Mrs. Carrie Nation began in Wichita a crusade of smashing the windows, furniture and other equipments of liquor saloons, excusing this disorderly proceeding upon the plea that the officers of the law wink at violations of the prohibitory statutes. Growing out of these demonstrations, and directly inspired by Mrs. Nation, who went to Topeka to carry on her crusade, a large mass meeting was held at Topeka on the 10th, at which liquor sellers were given until the 15th to remove their illicit goods and fixtures under penalty of their destruction. This action appears to have been effective. Some 60 liquor "joints" closed at once, and by the appointed time Topeka was reported as perfectly "dry." Nevertheless, on that day, the 15th, Mrs. Nation, with five companies of "The Carrie Nation Home Defenders," consisting of 500 men and women, found several "joints" to attack. The first one was guarded by four policemen, but regardless of these guardians the attack was made. Plate glass windows were broken, doors and window frames were cut away with axes, and the contents of the saloon were smashed. The policemen arrested Mrs. Nation. She was soon released, however, and led similar attacks upon other places. Four times during the day she suffered arrest. The smashing work went on for two or three days in Topeka, but on the 18th Mrs. Nation was ordered committed to jail in default of peace bonds in \$2,000. Some of her coadjutors were held in smaller sums. Mrs. Nation refuses to give the bonds required, and is still in jail. On the 20th the criminal court of Sedgwick county, sitting at Wichita, decided a case brought against her for malicious destruction of property in that town. The decision, which was not upon the facts, but upon the law, was adverse to Mrs. Nation. The court decided that property used for saloon purposes is under the protection of the law, and can be confiscated or destroyed only by due process.

Similar demonstrations have taken place in other parts of Kansas—Winfield, Emporia, Olpe, Perry, Goffs, Newman, Hutchinson, Wellington and Lawrence. In Millwood, a town near Leavenworth, an attack by masked men was made upon a liquor joint on the 19th, and in the disorder it occasioned, the assailants shot

and killed a woman, the married daughter of the proprietor. It appears probable that the real motive for this assault was not hostility to saloons, but personal hostility on the part of some of the assailants to the husband of the woman they killed.

Sensible fiscal legislation in the direction of sound democratic principles is by contrast a relief to the conflict of lawlessness in Kansas; and of such legislation the senate of Colorado furnishes an instance. On the 20th that body passed, by an overwhelming vote, the essential parts of the Bucklin constitutional amendment (see pages 564, 659, 675) for permitting the adoption by counties of the Australasian land tax system. When the measure came up in the senate on the 14th upon second reading, 20 senators voted for it as it stood and 13 against it. Although this was a good round majority, it fell short of the requisite two-thirds; and an amendment was agreed to whereby the clause allowing the Australasian land tax as a state system was eliminated. But the home rule, or local option, feature—the more important of the two—was retained. After this amendment the measure passed its second reading on the 14th by 27 to 6; and on the 20th it passed the third reading by 26 to 6. The measure now goes to the lower house, where, also, a two-thirds vote is requisite. It provides that at the next general election the voters of Colorado shall vote upon a constitutional amendment allowing the voters of any county, once in four years, to determine whether to exempt or refuse to exempt from all taxation for local purposes, "any or all personal property and improvements on land;" provided that the question be petitioned for by not less than 100 resident tax payers. The form of the popular vote on the amendment is to be for or against "Australasian tax system." The Bucklin report on the Australasian tax, upon which this proposed amendment is based, and by which it was suggested, may be had by addressing E. W. Burdick, secretary, etc., 24 Barth block, Denver, or Hon. J. W. Bucklin, senate chamber, Denver. A price of three cents each for more than 100 copies and five cents each for less than 100 (if sent by mail) or one cent each for any quantity sent by express, is charged for the purpose of covering cost.

NEWS NOTES.

—The national convention of butter-makers met at St. Paul on the 19th.

—The American Newspaper Publishers' association began its annual meeting on the 20th at New York.

—The annual congress of the Daughters of the American Revolution is in session at Washington.

—A new Italian ministry, composed of all parties, but mainly of members of the left, was formed on the 14th to succeed the Saracco ministry, which recently resigned.

—James Callahan was arrested in Omaha on the 19th charged with being one of the kidnapers of Edward Cudahy, Jr., the boy whose father recently ransomed him with \$25,000 in gold.

—A joint resolution for the amendment of the state constitution so as to permit municipalities to own and operate street railways was introduced on the 19th in the Michigan legislature.

—A Cincinnati judge issued an injunction on the 14th, restraining the prize fight between Jeffries and Ruhlin; which was to have come off in that city on the 15th under the sanction of the local authorities.

—John M. Harlan, a son of the federal supreme court justice, has consented to be a candidate for mayor of Chicago before the republican convention. This in response to a petition signed by 70,000 voters.

—Tom L. Johnson was nominated without opposition on the 19th for mayor of Cleveland, by popular vote at the democratic primaries. His platform was printed in full in the Miscellaneous department of this paper last week.

—A long campaign for member of the French chamber of deputies for the eleventh arrondissement of Paris resulted on the 17th in the election of the socialist candidate by a vote of 4,225 over the anti-Semite and nationalist, who polled 3,225.

—King Edward VII., late grand master of masons of England, has assumed the title of protector of the English free masons, and the duke of Connaught has been nominated for election on the 6th of March to succeed him as grand master.

—A committee on taxation appointed by the California legislature at its last session has reported that "there is but one opinion as to the workings of the present system—that is, that it is inequitable, unfair and positively unjust," adding that "whether we will or not, the country is rapidly approaching the single tax if the present system of taxation be not abandoned or very radically changed."

—The tenth annual Tuskegee Negro conference assembled at Tuskegee institute on the 20th. In the resolutions that day adopted negroes are urged to be patient while "the race is passing from what was largely a political basis to an economic one as a foundation for citizenship," and advised that "the rapid rise in the price of land throughout the south makes it doubly important that we do not delay in buying homes."

—The statistics of exports and imports of the United States for January, as given by the January treasury sheet, were as follows (M standing for merchandise, G for gold, and S for silver):

	Exports.	Imports.	Balance.
M	\$136,317,364	\$69,100,194	\$67,217,160 exp
G	8,221,169	4,161,012	4,060,147 exp
S	4,790,239	3,169,094	1,621,205 exp
	\$149,328,762	\$76,430,240	\$72,898,512

—The statistics of exports and imports of the United States for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1900, to and including January 31, 1901, as given by the treasury reports, were as follows (M standing for merchandise, G for gold, and S for silver):

	Exports.	Imports.	Balance.
M	\$302,229,729	\$468,831,071	\$448,398,968 exp
G	31,915,110	64,284,229	22,369,119 imp
S	40,641,417	24,420,289	16,221,128 exp
	\$374,786,256	\$537,535,569	\$437,250,667

IN CONGRESS.

This report is an abstract of the Congressional Record, and closes with the last issue of that publication at hand upon going to press.

Feb. 11th to 13th, 1901.

Senate.

Consideration of the naval appropriation bill was resumed on the 11th, when the bill came to a vote and was passed; whereupon, by a vote of 33 to 14, 41 not voting, the senate took up the ship subsidy bill, the consideration of which was interrupted by executive business. The agricultural appropriation bill was considered on the 12th. On the 13th at 12:55 the senate assembled with the house in representatives hall to participate in counting the electoral vote. Upon retiring to its own chamber the president reported that 447 votes had been cast for president of the United States, of which William McKinley, of Ohio, had received 292 and William J. Bryan, of Nebraska, 155; and that 447 had been cast for vice president, of which Theodore Roosevelt, of New York, had received 292 and Adlai E. Stevenson 155. Tabulated statements of the vote are printed at page 2606. After this proceeding the senate passed a bill (p. 2607) on silver coinage in Hawaii, and resumed consideration of the agricultural appropriation bill. At an evening session the code of laws for the District of Columbia was discussed. Consideration of the agricultural appropriation bill was resumed on the 14th at the day session, and of the District of Columbia code bill at the evening session. The agricultural appropriation bill was further considered and passed on the 15th, and the ship subsidy bill discussed. On the 16th the oleomargarine bill was discussed, after which an adjournment was taken over Sunday. Upon reassembling on Monday, the 18th, the senate made way for a speech on the ship subsidy bill, and entered upon the consideration of the post office appropriation bill.

House.

In the Record of the 11th (p. 2475), Loud's speech of the 6th on post office expenses, covering the question of railway pay, is printed. After disagreeing on the 11th to the senate substitute for the bill to reduce war revenues and appointing conferees, the house resumed consideration of the

diplomatic and consular appropriation bill and passed it. In the course of the debate Sulzer read a letter (p. 257) relative to Perry S. Heath, which, on the 12th, the house struck out. The army appropriation bill was then considered and passed, and the sundry civil appropriation bill taken up. Conferees on the naval appropriation bill were appointed. The sundry civil appropriation bill being still under consideration on the 13th, was laid aside for the joint session on counting the electoral vote, the proceedings and tabulated result of which are printed at page 3620. On the 14th consideration of the sundry civil bill was resumed. Private bills occupied the day on the 15th, and on the 16th, besides considering general appropriation bills, memorial speeches on the late Representative John H. Hoftecher, of Delaware, were listened to. Upon reassembling on the 18th, after the Sunday recess, the house, under suspension of the rules, passed the bill for the centennial celebration of the Louisiana purchase; but refused for want of a two-thirds vote to take the same course with the bill taking labor organizations out of the conspiracy clause of the interstate commerce law. It then resumed consideration of the sundry civil bill.

MISCELLANY

IN THE CHAPEL.

"Ye came like water and like wind ye go."

So spake the preacher. "Only yesterday
In the cool grass beneath blue skies ye lay,

To-morrow morning brings the storm and snow.

"Ye who but now chased pleasure with hot breath

Must forth to battle with a world uncouth—

Hope's endless days are done. Lo! In your youth

Ye have lived out a life and died a death.

"Ye came like water.' Has this meadow been

Impoverished by your river's bitterness?
Or have ye, with a lingering, sweet caress,

Lifted its flowers and made its green more green?

"Like the wind ye go.' How are ye going hence?

Where ye have passed do the fields bake with drought,

Or have ye blown upon them like the south,

And left them lovelier for your innocence?

"If ye have killed no flower, ye need not fear;

If ye have nourished one, go forth content

To the great life—ye know why ye are sent;

Water and wind have done their errand here."

—Ballads of Harvard, by Lloyd McKim Garrison.

CATCHING LITTLE THIEVES.

When continued robberies had become a serious social problem, a committee of leading thieves met to decide what should be done.

Miss Caraty proposed a relief fund for all that were robbed.

The City Vigilance society submitted that indeterminate sentences for small robbers was the real remedy.

Dr. Statics proposed to study the

tracks of the little robbers in order to find the law governing the hobnails in their boots.

Prof. Ostrian said he had already solved that problem, by pointing out that if the square of half the cosine of the curve H O B equals the demand for nails, then Y will equal the number of nails.

The Outsider said he didn't see how all that would help to catch even the little robbers; besides, said he, "the land owners took—"

Mr. Prominent interrupted him by saying that "the causes of these small robberies are very complicated, and we must first deeply study them, else we might really catch some robbers."—Bolton Hall.

BECAUSE I LOVE THE WHOLE WORLD.

Because I believe in the emancipation of the American laborer from all unequal burdens, because I believe that he will gain a thousand times more through justice than through charity, because I believe in more freedom as a cure for social ills rather than in more meddling; because I believe in the solidarity of the human race; because I believe that alienation between the laboring classes of different nations only makes them the ready victims of tyrants and extortioners; because I believe that the poor can never gain by injustice to each other or separation from each other; because I believe that the prosperity of every nation inevitably promotes the prosperity of every other; because, with all my heart and soul, I hate human hatred and love human sympathy; because I love the whole world, and America the best of all—I am for free trade, absolute, unconditioned and immediate.—Thomas G. Shearman, as reported in the National Single Taxer.

THE COMMONER ON TOM L. JOHNSON.

Hon. Tom L. Johnson, of Cleveland, O., announces that he has retired permanently from business and intends to devote all of his time and energy to social and political questions, with a view to aiding in the enforcement of the doctrine of equal and exact justice to all and special privileges to none.

It is a worthy ambition, and he carries into his work an honest heart, a clear head, an eloquent tongue and an enthusiasm which comes from deep conviction.

During his service in congress he gave evidence of both ability and

fidelity to the public weal, and his present determination is not a surprise to those who have known him intimately.

Mr. Johnson, though comparatively young, is a man of large means and has laid aside enough to keep the wolf from his own door while he is battling for the rights of others. His success as a business man will protect him from the contempt which the well-to-do usually visit upon the reformer.

Long life to him, and may he find in his labor for his fellows a higher and more enduring enjoyment than is within the reach of those who strive only for themselves, or who make the accumulation of wealth their sole object.—The Commoner of Feb. 13.

HOMERULE—THE AMERICAN IDEA.

An extract from the fourth annual message of Mayor Samuel M. Jones, of Toledo.

I believe this is the truly American idea, and that the principle of having our cities governed very largely from the state capital and by state politics is false in theory, pernicious in practice and demoralizing in effect. As I understand the American idea, it is that the people are the government; that they should be made to feel that there is no other place where responsibility can rest, and with such a system, if, for any reason, a municipal government is a failure, the people will do as the individual does when he suffers loss or injury through his own mistake and carelessness; he will look within for the trouble. As matters stand to-day, if there is municipal mismanagement or failure, we can easily shift responsibility from ourselves and lay the blame on the state laws that hamper us with their many limitations.

I favor a system of municipal government that will grant to the officials much the same sort of freedom, and impose upon them the same kind of responsibility that rests upon officials in charge of our private corporations. The analogy between the two is not perfect, I am aware, as one business is carried on for purely economic reasons, for profit getting, while profit getting, as such, is eliminated from the business of a city official; nevertheless, the analogy is close enough that the illustration will serve the purpose.

No Americans now have any idea of politeness except the colored Americans. They seem really to love good manners, though perhaps they sometimes value them beyond good morals.—W. D. Howells, in Harper's Monthly.

AN ESCUTCHEON FOR MR. ROCKEFELLER.

For The Public.

The last gift of Mr. Rockefeller to Chicago university, of \$1,500,000, brings the total amount given by him to that institution up to \$9,500,000, or about \$1,000,000 per year since the school was founded. To this immense sum others have added until Chicago university is one of the best endowed in the country. It has always been Mr. Rockefeller's aim to make his giving a stimulant to others to give, and in this he has been exceedingly wise. Other rich men by the hundreds, and poor men by the thousands have learned the blessedness of giving. The institutions have been taught how to conduct aggressive financial campaigns and the sum total added to endowments have been doubled. Mr. Rockefeller has not been a benefactor to the single institution, but there is scarcely a college or academy in the United States or Canada but has received from him. With his influence in providing the common people with cheap and good kerosene, and the youth of the land with better schools, he might well choose as the symbol of his escutcheon a blazing lamp.—Editorial in the Pacific Baptist of Jan. 9.

From the above editorial from the Pacific Baptist (published at Portland, Ore.), we may perceive what we owe to the great and good Mr. Rockefeller. If it were not for him, what would we do for kerosene? and how would our ambitious youth get better schooling? Would you have us of common clay dwell forever in darkness? and our aspiring youth always perspire with their toiling parents?

The Lord must have known what he was about when he made Rockefeller, a good man (and a Baptist), the owner of the oil wells of the earth; for some other evil-disposed fellow might have closed them all up, or have tubed the whole business into the sea. Now, will you be good?

I bought a gallon of kerosene yesterday, and it cost me only 25 cents. Instead of complaining, I feel to thank the Lord (and Rockefeller) that it was not 50 cents. What if Rockefeller's share of my 25 cents was 10 or 15 cents; does he not give me back several parts of a cent in universities; and does he not hold a good, strong, iron grip on all the professors, to see that they don't run after strange gods, theological and economic? Now will you be good?

W. H. L.

Ottawa, Can., January, 1901.

THE INDIAN PROBLEM.

An extract from a private letter written in the Indian country.

As for the Indian question, it is to me, and I believe to others, one of the hardest to solve. The system of educating them is so abused and imperfect. As a rule the educated In-

dian, especially if he has been away, and then sent back to his people with the idea of improving the old folks, is a terribly hard citizen. He won't work because he has the notion implanted in him that the government must support him. They are the worst and most persistent beggars you ever saw; and it all comes from humoring them, and virtually buying them, as you would a spoiled child.

If I had a voice in the matter, I would advocate making them all citizens, with equal rights and privileges, and also amenable to the laws, as the Mexicans and negroes are. The Indians as a rule are as smart, bright and intelligent as white people, and much more so than the average Mexican was, or negro. The Indian won't work if he has his stomach full, but he will dance all night and all day, and simply gorge himself.

The Indians have a religion, and their faith in it is beyond an educated person's comprehension. They make a great fuss over their "medicine" men and their doctoring, but no more than we do; and they make the well-to-do pay extortionately, but that is common with us. If an Indian dies, instead of spending money on the dead, his friends kill horses and sheep and cattle and have a big feast. In some cases the heirs wrangle over the property, as the white man does; but generally they have laws about such matters, and abide by them.

You will think I am socialistic in being willing to let each do his own way.

On the line here the Indian accuses the white man of stealing, and vice versa, and Mr. S— is the medium between them. But generally when he manages to get the accusing parties together it is found to be a case of "quits." The white man, especially the Indian trader and storekeeper, will, if he can, take advantage of the Indian. Is it any wonder that the latter retaliates if he gets the chance?

CASES OF NATIONAL THEFT.

An extract from a sermon on "Thieves," by the Rev. Louis George Landenberger, as published in the New Church Messenger of September 5.

As it is true of individual life that there can be no regeneration unless man observes God's Thou shalt nots, so also is it true that there can be no true national prosperity unless a nation is founded upon righteousness. Both the nation and the individual have certain rights which ought to be respected, otherwise theft is committed.

The commandment, "Thou shalt not steal," is transgressed when laws are enacted which benefit a few people and impoverish the others. National theft is committed when franchises are given away without the people being fairly remunerated. When tracts of land are deeded away to corporations in large quantities, the rights of the people are stolen. Because as a country we have had such an abundance of natural opportunities we did not dream it possible that the great necessities of life could become centered in the hands of a few; such as coal, salt, oil, and the rest of the things that God has stored up in the earth for the generations to be born upon it. Do we not see that the people are deprived of their rights to these natural opportunities, when men are permitted to own them in such a way as to do with them what they please?

This is not only true of necessities of life that come direct to the people from God, the Creator, and in which man has a natural right to share, but it is true in regard to other things. If the legislators of the nation put into private hands the functions that properly belong to the people, that is, the government, they are stealing on a very large scale.

This command, "Thou shalt not steal," we are instructed, means not only that man has no right to act a pirate, but that no one has a right to take away goods secretly, or under any pretense. There seems to be a feeling among many people that if they can filch money from the government in some underhanded way, there is nothing specially wrong in it. The spirit that animates the thief is to get something for nothing; to get money, wealth, or services without giving an adequate service in return.

How this spirit of thieving in a national way has been carried on—pension thieving, bounty thieving, war-claim thieving, railroad, public-contract, and in hundreds of other ways the people have been deprived of their wealth; and, to add insult to injury, it has been done "legally"—it has been legalized robbery—and where robbery has been committed it has been done by lying, for the two are twin devils and are born in the same heart.

THE PHILIPPINE BALANCE SHEET.

At the end of two years of benevolent assimilation the New York Evening Post kindly volunteers to post up the books for Maj. McKinley, the latter being too busy with the ship subsidy steal and the proposed Cuban perfidy to attend to the mat-

ter himself. The account is really interesting and it is worth careful study. As presented in a balance sheet covering the two years it affords a graphic illustration of what ambition can do in the short space of 24 months. Here it is:

WILLIAM M'KINLEY IN ACCOUNT WITH THE UNITED STATES.

DR.	CR.
To one archipelago	By two years' exports to Philippines, say \$3,200,000, profit on which at 12 per cent. is
To benevolently assimilating the same, 730 days at \$750,000 a day.....	\$384,000
To expenses able negotiators Paris Treaty ..	222,000
To two islands which able negotiators thought they had bought ...	100,000
	\$567,322,000
	384,000
Profit and loss	\$566,938,000

However, this adverse balance is perhaps set off by that "favorable" balance of which the major boasts as a proof of our unexampled prosperity. But let that be as it may, the money side of the question seems to be rather against us. Nor is this all. There is the loss of life in battle and as the result of disease incident even to a "Christian" war. According to the official report of the war department the casualty account stood thus at the close of business January 30, 1901:

Deaths to May 16, 1900.....	1,847
Killed reported from May 16, 1900, to the date of the presidential election, November 6, 1900	100
Deaths from wounds, disease and accident, same period	468
Total deaths to presidential election ..	2,415
Killed reported since presidential election	30
Deaths from wounds, disease and accident, same period.....	146
Total deaths	2,590
Wounded since July 1, 1898.....	2,389
Total casualties since July, 1898.....	4,989

Just how many little brown men, with their women and children, we have slain as an offset to this does not appear in the official records, but more or less authentic accounts place the Filipino dead at about 30,000. Perhaps another item may also be

worked in as an offset to our casualties, namely, the destruction of Filipino homes, churches, hospitals, schools and other heathen evidences of the need of benevolent assimilation. But no one can tell what this destruction has footed up, yet the total must be something glorious, if not in pesos, at least in the anguish of women and the terror and suffering of little children driven by our Christian warriors into the swamp and the jungle and mountain fastnesses from their burning homes.—Johnstown (Pa.) Democrat of February 9.

A QUESTION OF OUR DAY.

For The Public.

Whatever has been said or written of the position of the Polish Jew in Russia, and his expulsion therefrom, has been done for special reasons. For those who do not know the inside of the question, religion, the old bogey of the middle ages, has been taken for granted as the reason. Religion, however, has nothing to do with the expulsion of the Jews from Russia. If that were the case, the whole movement would be nothing but one of personal hatred, rather flattering to the Jew, if you consider the history and literature of that people. If the expulsion were due to religious reasons, the Jews would not be permitted to erect new synagogues, and worship in them, as is the case. Every Saturday you may see in the Jewish synagogues benches filled with the Jewish soldiers in their uniforms, worshipping in accordance with their belief, who have been ordered to go there. So what nonsense to call it a religious question! How, then, could one part of them be driven out, and the other part of the same race retained, if their offense was of the same nature. There are many things, good and bad, in Russia, as everywhere else; but such a thing as that could not be done. Taken in all respects you can live as free in Russia as you can in the United States if you live according to their laws.

The question of his expulsion, however, deals not so much with the Jew personally as with the thriving race that works, like bees in a hive, with accumulative productiveness, as opposed to the indolent Russian, who mostly spends more than he can make. It is a matter of protection, self-preservation if you wish, against the more active, at least, possibly the more conscientious.

To begin with, there are still 10,000,000 Jews in Russia, which proves that not all have given, or could give, cause for expulsion.

The estate owner in Russia either lives on his estate and manages it, or he lives in foreign countries. Wherever he lives, he gambles. This curse of the Russians follows him wherever he goes, and consequently he needs money. The Polish Jew of the villages and small towns is the purchaser of all the products on these estates—wool, alcohol (which is an important traffic), cereals, in fact all. Mostly he pays for the harvest many months before it can be delivered. When the time of delivery comes he is told: "If you do not pay cash for the next year's harvest, we will sell this for ready money, and you will have to wait till next season." This country merchant sells again to the larger houses and speculators on the produce exchange. Consequently, to obtain what he has already given his money for, he is obliged to do what he is told, without having the slightest idea how the next harvest will turn out—a risk for his money only. This example is followed by the Russian peasant farmer also. Money is needed; the Jew has to furnish it; but must not complain of the treatment he receives.

The second cause of trouble is that when a son or a nephew has a close-fisted parent, this son or nephew may borrow for years on the estate or estates that will come to him (this case is not a particularly Russian one). Finally, when he comes into his inheritance, instead of going to work to economize and pay back what he owes, he cries aloud: "The Jew has ruined me."

There are other similar conditions that combine with these. And, of course, the Russian citizen has to be protected, so the Jew is driven out.

I am neither a Jew nor a lover of the race, but I wish to have justice done to all. No one on earth is entirely good or entirely bad. There is always something good to be found in our fellow beings, however much they may differ on the religious point—a matter which no one has power to decide.

These facts are not from hearsay, or from newspapers, but from personal knowledge, after four years of living among these different classes and races of people.

H. DE LA G. NICOLAI.

A POLITICAL AND SOCIAL CATECHISM.

From the Twentieth Century Gridiron Primer, a souvenir volume presented to each guest at a recent dinner given by the Gridiron club of Washington, D. C. Reprinted from the Springfield Republican.

Q. What are your social duties?
A. To obey the law when it suits; to dodge it when it imposes taxes.

Q. What is law? A. Something congressmen are paid salaries to enact.

Q. What is considered the supreme law? A. The constitution (in some parts of the country).

Q. What is political government? A. Standing in with the bosses and shaking the plum trees.

Q. What is the government of the United States? A. It is called republican.

Q. In whom is the sovereign power vested? A. Mark Hanna.

Q. What constitutes the United States? A. Thirteen originally rebellious states; 32 other states, chiefly acquired without the consent of the governed; the territories of Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Alaska, Guam, Hawaii, Porto Rico, Luzon, Mindanao, Palawan, Samar, Panay, Negros, Bohol, Leyte, Masbate, Marinduque, Basilan, Polillo, Catanduanes, the empire of Sulu, Tutuila the District of Columbia, and several others.

Q. Into how many branches is the general government divided? A. Three; the legislative, the executive and the judicial.

Q. What is the legislative power? A. To pass the river and harbor bill and partake of the "liver and lights."

Q. What is the executive power? A. To appoint friends to public offices and make enemies.

Q. What is the judicial power? A. The right to change its mind.

Q. Who are the principal officers of the United States? A. The president, the vice president and the yellow journals.

Q. By whom are the president and vice president appointed? A. By boss-ridden national conventions.

Q. By whom are the yellow journals appointed? A. By themselves.

Q. How are the laws of the United States made? A. They are suggested in the house and enacted in the senate.

Q. What is the senate of the United States? A. Give it up.

Q. What is the house of representatives? A. David B. Henderson, successor to Thomas B. Reed.

Q. How often do congress meet? A. As often as they can "do" the people.

Q. Where do they meet? A. Over two unlicensed canteens, in the city of Washington.

Q. In whom is the judicial power of the United States vested? A. In the supreme court of the United States, when it does not run against the Chicago platform; and in such

number of inferior courts as may be necessary to provide places for extinct statesmen.

Q. What is the distinction between the national and state governments? A. None, when the Old Flag and an appropriation are involved.

Q. What are the state governments? A. Principally organized trusts.

Q. How are they conducted? A. By White Caps, Red Shirts, Lynchers, Regulators and Railroads.

Q. How are the governors of the states selected? A. Some by the people; some by the pitchfork.

Q. What is the chief object of law? A. Usually to shield criminals; occasionally to prevent lynchings.

Q. What offenses are punishable with death in the United States? A. Mugwumperry, peaching and going to West Point.

Q. In what way is the death penalty inflicted? A. By electrocution, elocution, hanging and hazing.

Q. How are crimes not capital punished? A. By furnished rooms and parlor board in Ludlow street jail, and a trip pass to Havana.

Q. How is the guilt of an offender ascertained? A. By investigating the post office department.

SUMS IN GOOD CITIZENSHIP.

Principal Osinga, of the Armour street school, has been at work trying to relate the school to real life. A short time ago he talked to the Chicago Principals' club and gave the members some of his ideas. He believes that the principals and teachers in the Chicago public schools should be greater forces than they are to-day in the development of a higher standard of citizenship. He wants them to address themselves to the practical problems of city life and administration. He stated that the arithmetics which were used in the schools were full of examples which had absolutely no connection with the experiences of the pupils. It had occurred to him that it was possible, for instance, to connect instruction in arithmetic with lessons in good municipal housekeeping, and so he prepared the following as an illustration:

1. The county building contains 76,000 square feet of floor space. The Monadnock building contains 490,000 square feet of floor space. Compare these buildings as to floor space.

2. The county building has 320 windows. The Monadnock building has 7,000 windows. Compare these buildings as to windows.

3. Number of janitors: County building, 40; Monadnock, 80. If the county building has an adequate number of

janitors, how many should the Monadnock have, using floor space as the basis of comparison?

4. If the Monadnock has an adequate number, how many should the county building have on the basis of floor space?

5. Salaries of janitors per year: County building, \$25,480; Monadnock, \$30,000. If the cost of janitor service in the county building is a fair amount what should be the cost of service in the Monadnock?

6. If the cost of janitor service in the Monadnock is a fair amount, what should be the cost of service in the county building?

7. How much would the answer to the fifth question add to \$30,000?

8. How much would the answer to the sixth decrease \$25,480?

9. Interpret this answer.

10. Who pays the bill?

Mr. Osinga's idea is not only to secure the instruction of the children, but through them of the parents. One day he interviewed the city sealer on the subject of weights and measures. He was astonished at the revelations made to him as to the dishonest practices in vogue. Not far from his school is a man engaged in the coal business. Here it seemed was an opportunity for studying practically the subject of weights and measures. Mr. Osinga sent his children to make some inquiries, but not a single item of information was given by the suspicious dealer.

Instead of giving examples involving the transportation of fruit from some place where no fruit is grown, Mr. Osinga makes a mental journey with his children to the fruit farms of Michigan. All the items of expense involved in picking, crating, carrying and selling the fruit are carefully figured out, and all the methods by which this business is conducted are gone into. With Chicago as the great center of the grain trade, plenty of real illustrations can be found to make arithmetic interesting in this particular line. With dozens of great railroads running into Chicago, the various questions relating to their business offer many instructive problems. In this way the work is extended into various fields, bringing the pupil into contact with the real life of the community and giving him an insight into real experiences.

In Lake View Principal Davis, of the Hawthorne school, began a similar work almost at the same time that Mr. Osinga developed his plans. He induced his children to seek information in regard to street pavements. They studied the materials for different kinds of pavements, the manner in which each kind is put down, and what should be the legitimate cost. Then they investigated in the neighborhood of their school to see how much new

pavements had actually cost. Thus a valuable fund of information was accumulated.

Mr. Osinga feels that if each school in the city were to make investigations along certain lines, each in its own way, the material thus gathered could be compiled and distributed for the use of the city schools in general. The Principals' club has appointed a committee to prepare a plan for carrying out Mr. Osinga's suggestions.—Chicago Record, of January 18.

ECHOES FROM THE LINCOLN DINNER IN NEW YORK.

For The Public.

In a game of chess there comes a time when one player or the other believes he has the game well in hand, and, from being intent on winning, takes thought as to the manner of winning; he desires to win in impressive style, with a spectacular display of chess pyrotechnics. He becomes scornful of pawns and places his reliance on the pieces of rank. In the pride of his power he becomes careless of his defense in order to conduct a brilliant attack or mask a prospective checkmate. And if his opponent cannot see through things, woe unto him, for there is something bewildering and confusing in the sudden advance of the stronger pieces—something mentally akin to the delivery of a shower of blows by a clever prize-winning tactician.

It appears to me that the leaders of the ultra conservative element have arrived at this stage of the great political chess game.

This thought comes to me from reading sundry speeches in honor of Abraham Lincoln, reports of which were printed in the papers. At the Waldorf-Astoria Mark Hanna spoke on "The Business Man in Politics." Tom Johnson once called Mark a "plutocrat in politics." Mark said among other things:

This (the Republican) club is an object lesson of the representative business man in politics. . . . What higher duty is there than to take part in affairs which are the foundations of their success? . . . I had pride and satisfaction in calling upon business men, to find a ready response with a full appreciation of the needs of the hour. Let me hope that the experience of the last two campaigns will be an incentive to all business men of this metropolis to improve the opportunities of the future. . . . It is on those having greater advantages that the responsibility falls for educating and leading the men who cannot be expected to work out these problems.

I don't suppose Mark ever read Machiavelli, but he nevertheless clearly recognizes the fact that the masses

of men are chumps, and need men like himself to manage things.

Judge Baldwin, of Omaha, was the heavy-weight speaker, or big gem imported for the occasion, and lent Twainesque humor to the occasion. He said:

Let us not deceive ourselves. There are social anomalies and phenomena that portend trouble to the republic, and the party of Abraham Lincoln is morally pledged to an honest investigation as to the cause and the remedy. Let us not be discouraged. Only search unweariedly for the truth.

Senator Depew, "Our Chauncey," must have been reading The Public's article on John Marshall, together with the New York Sun's essay on the same interesting figure. He said:

As we look over the records of history, the men who possessed the creative genius to carve out principles and institutions of the unknown can be numbered on the fingers of one hand. The question arises whether the five men, Washington, Jefferson, Jackson, Grant and Lincoln, whose birthdays the American people celebrate, belong, any of them, to this class. I know the statement will arouse controversy, and hope it will, because in controversy and discussion we reach the truth. None of these men belong to the order of creative genius. Of them all, Lincoln came the nearest. The two minds and marvelous intelligences to which we owe the foundation and superstructure of our institutions and our national life as they exist to-day were Alexander Hamilton and John Marshall. Jefferson achieved immortal fame by the condensation of the principles of liberty in undying expressions in the declaration of independence. But his whole theory of government was opposed to that majestic concentration of national power which makes the republic of the United States the strongest and mightiest nation in the world.

We have revered the names of these idols of the people, because we had to, long enough, it would appear. We can now discard with scorn those advanced pawns, and rush our real heroes to the front. It takes greatness, indeed, to recognize greatness.

Whitelaw Reid, editor of the New York Tribune, also spoke. His subject was "Our New Possessions," and he said:

Is the flag to be withdrawn from Cuba? It is not one of "our new possessions," but our responsibility for it is imbedded in successive and solemn declarations by almost every administration since Madison. . . . Who says the hasty resolution of congress, rushed through in the moment of declaring war, is not, at least, to be construed, like every other act, in the light of the previous policy of the government on the same subject? . . . Under that protectorate the island could have as much freedom as any state in the union, but it would not be likely to have more. Its foreign relations would and its custom house might remain under the guidance of the protecting power. Does that break the congressional promise to leave the government and control of

the island to its people? Must Cuba, though thoroughly dependent upon us for protection and defense, and absolutely essential to our safety, nevertheless have more freedom thrust upon it than Vermont or Massachusetts or New York? Our congress is capable sometimes of extraordinary things, but it is hardly capable of that.

If there is any way of "keeping our promise to the ear" of the Cuban people while "breaking it to their hope," we may depend upon Whitelaw Reid to find it.

And there they sat and talked and consulted, did these intelligent men, who understand things, secure in the knowledge vouchsafed them by Niccolo Machiavelli:

All men have eyes, but few have the gift of penetration.

STEPHEN BELL.

Brooklyn, N. Y., Feb. 13, 1901.

A QUESTION OF NEUTRALITY.

An Open Letter.

To Hon. W. Astor Chanler, M. C., Fourteenth Congressional District, N. Y.

As I am a resident and voter in your congressional district, I take the liberty of addressing this letter to you, hoping that you may call the attention of congress to the subject of this communication.

Having read from time to time in the public papers of the shipment of horses and mules from New Orleans in vast quantities for the use of the British army in the war in South Africa, I thought there must be some exaggeration. To convince myself on this subject, I made a trip to New Orleans, and found that the numbers shipped had been underestimated, instead of overstated. Over 60,000 animals of all kinds for remounts and to replace worn-out cavalry and artillery horses used up by the British army in South Africa have already been shipped from that port; and it is contemplated to ship some 40,000 or 50,000 more. In fact, 100,000 is the minimum; and what the actual number may reach is not known.

A fleet of transports has been employed in this service ever since the war began. When one transport is loaded and leaves the wharf, another takes its place, and sometimes two transports are loading at the same time.

On arriving in New Orleans last Thursday morning I took the trolley car down to the Slaughter House wharf, some five miles below the center of the town. I found the British transport Montezuma at the wharf taking on horses as fast as they could be put aboard. It grieved

me to the heart to know that we were furnishing these horses to drag the cannon and mount the cavalry to break down the patriotic Boers.

This transport has been engaged in this service ever since the war began. On her last trip she took out 2,000 mules; and she is now loading from 1,400 to 1,600 horses, which do not pack quite as close as mules. They are put in stalls so narrow that the horse cannot lie down, and as the voyage takes from 30 to 40 days, more than half of which is immediately under the line of the equator, their sufferings are very great. Many are thrown overboard, and many others arrive in such a condition that they are hardly fit for service. Still, however, about 75 per cent. are able after a rest of 30 days to be taken into active service.

The whole of the United States is being ransacked to get these horses. Those now being shipped are bought in Wyoming, Montana and Dakota. They are divided into four classes—cavalry horses, of which over 37,000 have been shipped; artillery horses, horses for the mounted police (a supplementary military force), and mules for the commissary department. A large number of horses have been bought of the Indian tribes in the northwest. A train containing 800 was on the way, to arrive on Saturday last. As far as I can ascertain, no horses have been purchased in Canada.

All the nations of the earth, except the United States, are neutral. We are the only people who supply the British with the sinews of war, and our country is the sole basis of supply for warlike material.

The money to buy this stock and maintain this fleet of transports was borrowed on British bonds, negotiated in Wall street, and they are now negotiating an additional loan. What must be the feelings of the Boers towards us when they hear the roar of British artillery, and stand together to resist the charge of the British cavalry, knowing that both are brought against them by horses furnished by this country—this country claiming to be neutral? If the Boers are ever conquered, their defeat will be due to us. Bear it in mind, it will be due to us alone.

If we should build a war vessel for the Boers, and turn it over to them, it would create a great excitement in London. But, why may we not sell the Boers ships, as well as the British horses? No army ever operated

in any campaign of any importance, in ancient or modern times, without the assistance of the horse.

I desire you to call the attention of congress to the treaty of May the 8th, 1871, between Great Britain and the United States, article 6:

"A neutral government is bound not to permit or suffer either belligerent to make use of its ports or waters, as the base of naval operations against the other, or for the purpose of the renewal or augmentation of military supplies, or arms, or the recruitment of men."

Immediately after the declaration of war by the United States against Spain, the queen by her proclamation of neutrality, dated April 26, 1898, reminds the United States of this convention, and cautions us against its infraction, and also quoted the treaty, as follows:

"Whereas, We are resolved to ensure by every lawful means in our power the due observance by our subjects towards both of the aforesaid powers, of the rules embodied in article six, of the treaty of the 8th of May, 1871, between us and the United States of America, which said rules are as follows:"

"A neutral government is bound—
"First, to use due diligence to prevent the fitting out, arming or equipping, within its jurisdiction, of any vessel, which it has reasonable ground to believe is intending to cruise, or carry on war against a power with which it is at peace; and also to use like diligence to prevent the departure from its jurisdiction of any vessel intended to cruise or carry on war as above, such vessel having been specially adapted in whole or in part, within such jurisdiction, to warlike use.

"Secondly, not to permit or suffer either belligerent to make use of its ports or waters as the base of naval operations against the other, or for the purpose of the renewal or augmentation of military supplies or arms, or the recruitment of men.

"Thirdly, to exercise due diligence in its own ports and waters, and as to all persons within its jurisdiction to prevent any violation of the foregoing obligations and duties."

Sir, as a native-born American, proud of my country, jealous of her honor, I ask you to solicit the congress to intervene in this matter at once, by preventing the exportation of horses and mules for the use of the British army in South Africa. While the world is amazed at the fortitude of the Boers, it is equally astounded at

the practical assistance rendered by this country to their enemies.

I have the honor to be, with great respect, very truly yours, etc.,

EDWARD VAN NESS.
17 E. 71st St., New York City, Jan. 8, 1901.

FROM THE "GRIDIRON PRIMER."

Extracts from the Twentieth Century Gridiron Primer, a souvenir volume presented to each guest at a recent dinner given by the Gridiron club of Washington, D. C. Reprinted from the Springfield Republican.

A stands for Ar-my,
The Or-gan-i-za-tion
We use for be-nev-o-lent
As-sim-il-a-tion.

C is for Cu-ba,
An Isle of the Sea,
Which we're hold-ing a might-y
Long While as Trust-ee.

E is Ex-pan-sion—
Ex-pe-ri-ence, too,
Which we'll have in A-bun-dance
Be-fore we get through.

H is Ha-zing, by which
Ed-u-ca-tional Aid
Men and Gen-tle-men quick-ly
At West Point are made.

R is R-s-v-lt first,
And the Rest way be-hind.
In His Wis-dom the Lord
Made but one of this Kind.

The late George Alfred Townsend (Gath), who continues to stalk abroad in his musty cerements, discovers in the Pittsburgh Dispatch that there is more stability in a monarchy than in a republic. There is also rather more in a penitentiary than in a New England town meeting.—Johnstown (Pa.) Democrat.

Here is a conundrum which Thomas B. Reed recently propounded:

"If killing 10,000 Filipinos in ten months, as our soldiers are said to have done, is benevolent assimilation, how many must the Spanish have killed in 300 years to warrant us in calling their rule in the archipelago tyrannous?"—Argonaut.

An American minister who recently visited Ireland says he heard a

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preacher conclude his sermon with these words: "My brethren, let not this world rob you of a peace which it can neither give nor take away."—Chicago Chronicle.

The Commoner is grateful for the kindly welcome extended by friendly newspapers and accepts the hostile criticism in the spirit in which it is given.—The Commoner of Feb. 13.

"I am glad to see," said an American burden-bearer, "that congress is about to wipe out some of our taxes."

"I don't see how that action will affect you and me," remarked an ultra protectionist; "according to my catechism 'the foreigner pays the tax.'"

G. T. E.

Our merry little daughter
Was climbing out of bed—
"Don't you think that I'm a good girl?"
Our little daughter said,
"For all day long this lovely day,
And all day long to-morrow,
I haven't done a single thing
To give my mother sorrow!"
—Woman's Journal.

Citizen—My house at No. 4,916,718
Uneasy street was robbed last night!
Police Captain (to clerk)—Mr.
Smith, please look in your books and
see if a permit was issued to any-
body to rob the premises at No. 4-
916,718 Uneasy street last night.—
Puck.

BOOK NOTICES.

The Standard Guide to the City of Mexico and Vicinity, Illustrated (City of Mexico: Modern Mexico Publishing Co., 2 a Independencia No. 8. Price, \$1 Mexican, 50 cents American), a compilation by Robert S. Barrett, is fully described by the title.

Selections from the Writings of George MacDonald, or Helps for Weary Souls (Chicago: Frances L. Dusenberry, 78-84 Madison street), compiled by J. Dewey, culis from the great novelist a cluster of spiritual thoughts, in which the principle of brotherhood is most prominent.

"The Solution of the Social Problem" (Chicago: Schulte Publishing Co., 323-325 Dearborn St. Price, 25c), by C. E. Dietrich, solves the industrial question by proposing the adoption of the "natural basis of exchange," which is the exchange of labor products upon the basis of the amount of labor, measured by time, expended in producing them. The thought is undigested and its presentation somewhat crude.

Constitutional Municipal Government (Chicago: Public Policy Publishing Co., 126-132 Market street. No price named), embodies a series of articles by Allen Ripley Foote, originally intended for the consideration of the Ohio legislature in connection with the report of the Ohio municipal code commission, but which are in

large measure of general application to the subject of municipal reform.

Why We Should Study Socialism (Cincinnati: The Clarion Club. Price, plain edition, 5 cents; art edition, 10 cents), is described as a friendly sermon on social duty. It is by Robert Swift, who presents the subject not only intelligently and strongly but with good feeling. Though all socialists might not agree with him in his characterization of socialism, he holds to the distinguishing characteristic of all socialistic schools—which is their neglect to distinguish the natural differences that exist between individual economic rights and common economic rights.

JANUARY MAGAZINES.

—The New Philosophy (Lancaster, Pa.: The Swedenborg Scientific association) comprises a paper on the mechanism of the brain whereby alternating states of sleep and wakefulness are produced.

FEBRUARY MAGAZINES.

—Our Dumb Animals (Boston: Price, 50 cents per year).

—Social Ideals (Elgin: Social Ideals Co. Price, \$1 per year).

—The Land of Sunshine (Los Angeles: Land of Sunshine Publishing Co., 121½ South Broadway. Price, \$1 a year; 10 cents a copy), the magazine of the Pacific slope. A finely illustrated horticultural story, some notes with illustrations about Don Antonio F. Coronel, whose "biography would be very much a history of Los Angeles for 50 years," Digger Indian legends, continuation of early western history, and the usual contribution of live editorial matter from the pen of the editor, Charles F. Lumnis. To look through the pages of this magazine is to be for the time in southern California.

The edition of "The Public" this week is 6,000.

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