

formed that the reason for these arrangements is that all the census statistics of wages heretofore published are false and misleading!

With her military prestige gone—lost upon South African veldts—Great Britain, under the lead of the Salisbury-Chamberlain ministry, is now earning a ghastly reputation for inhumanity and violation of the laws of war. She has abolished civil law in South Africa, and in the name of military law but without its sanction, is killing off the women and children of her enemy in reconcentrado camps and hanging prisoners of war and civilians sentenced by drumhead courts-martial. Her good name is swiftly following her military prestige. As no warlike nation fears her now, no civilized people can much longer respect her. The one redeeming fact about it all is the brave protest and the strenuous opposition of a truly patriotic remnant of her people.

Secretary Gage has at last disclosed the inward meaning of the "sound money" agitation. He did it at the Bankers' convention at Milwaukee on the 16th. Thoughtful men who do not believe in government by a banking ring have long foreseen this outcome, but their prognostications have been laughed to scorn by the thoughtless and the conniving. It is a relief, therefore, to have the purpose of this plutocratic agitation authoritatively revealed. It is nothing less in substance than the reestablishment of the United States bank which once had the American government by the throat and was only shaken off by the vigorous policy of President Jackson.

It is natural that special admirers of one who in dying leaves behind him happy memories of personal virtues, should dwell affectionately upon those characteristics of their departed friend. Though his virtues be in no wise unique, but are exemplified almost universally in the common life

of his time, to his friends he seems to have been their peculiar exemplar. This trait in human nature explains the enthusiasm with which Mr. McKinley's admirers dilate upon his sterling qualities as a friend, a neighbor, a son and a husband. But these admirable virtues cannot keep the late president's memory green in history. Most friends are true to their friends, most neighbors are good neighbors, most sons love their mothers, most husbands are devoted to their wives. Such virtues are too common to distinguish any man permanently. Mr. McKinley's reputation as a character in American history must have a more enduring basis. Future generations, even his own generation at no distant day, will ask, not what kind of husband Mr. McKinley was, but what kind of statesman he was. That is the point toward which Mr. McKinley's admirers should begin to turn their attention.

CLASSES IN THE UNITED STATES.

The crusade against free press and free speech which the recent assassination has set on foot, has for one of its declared objects the suppression of discussions proceeding upon the hypothesis that the people of the United States are divided into classes.

That hypothesis is asserted to be false, because there are no classes here; and the discussion to be dangerous, because it raises class against class. How class can be raised against class in a country where there are no classes, is a riddle which stranglers of free discussion may find it politic to unravel.

While they are thus engaged, it may be profitable to the rest of us to consider this question of classes in our country, with some serious sense of responsibility for the future of the republic. Is it true that we have classes here? That is a question which cannot be lightly dismissed.

Pinchbeck patriotism, resting as it does upon the barbarous doctrine that men must stand by the government of their country not only when it is right, but as well when it is wrong, may ignore this vital question of classes. But true patriotism, to

which national glory is of less concern by far than national righteousness, is rooted too securely in the principles of human equality to be indifferent to the possibility of class differences in a republic where all are nominally equal.

That conditions in this country are fostering classes, is one of the signs of the times so plainly written that none but a fool can honestly err if he tries to read them at all. It is true that our class distinctions were more marked in the past. We have had a slave class and a master class. We have had a plebeian class and an aristocratic class. We have had a tenant class and a landlord class. But those distinctions were a satanic inheritance, of which we were ridding ourselves. If classes did exist more distinctly and with harsher edges than than now, they were not fostered. The tendency of conditions and events was, on the contrary, in the direction of obliterating them.

In our time, however, that tendency is reversed. Though slaves, as a class distinguished by birth marks and bills of sale, were swept away in rushing currents of human blood; though there is no plebeian class (save the freedman and his descendants) so unalterably differentiated from the aristocratic class that the line of demarcation is impassable; though tenants now become landlords as plebeians become aristocrats; though the humblest boy may rise to the most conspicuous station—though all the conventional class distinctions of a former age have passed away, essential class differences remain. And events are developing these differences into distinctions not less potent, even if more subtle, than the class distinctions of the past.

This is one of those evident truths which require no argument, with men willing to reflect upon the facts that confront them; but in support of which hardly any argument would be effective, with the unwilling. "If a man oppose evident truths," remarked Epictetus, "it is not easy to find arguments by which we shall make him change his opinions."

Whoever says there are no class differences in the United States is either deceiving himself or trying to