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LOUIS F. POST, Editor.

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Pessimists have recently been defined as persons who believe that everything old has been tried and failed, and that all things new are bad; and optimists as jolly fellows in comfortable circumstances who believe that whatever is, is good—except when it pinches them.

A political victory is claimed by the British Tories at the by-election at Stratford. But if they really regard that as a victory they must hunger and thirst for victories. This election they carried by the same majority that they rolled up in 1895. A Tory constituency is retained by the Tories by their usual majority upon the war issue. How does that indicate that the anti-war feeling has received a blow?

One of the Washington reports of the current week tells of a claim which a regular army officer makes to the honor of having captured Aguinaldo. The dispatch does not explain whether he claims to have made the capture honorably or Funston fashion.

Judge Stein, of Chicago, joins the small but growing number of judges who are checking the tendency of the courts to abolish jury trial for crimes by issuing injunctions against criminal acts. The case in which Judge Stein's decision was rendered was not a labor case. Those are the cases in which the injunction abuse has been most pronounced. It was a case in which the injunction was sought to restrain race track gambling. Judge Stein held that the powers of the

criminal courts, and not those of a court of equity, should be invoked.

It is gratifying to learn from friends and admirers of Senator Hanna that the Cleveland street railway, which he controls, has granted "a voluntary raise of wages" to conductors and motormen. But the amount of the raise is only one cent an hour. Men who formerly got 20 cents an hour, or two dollars a day, are now to get 21 cents an hour or \$2.10 a day. As wages go, this may be liberal; but under any circumstances it is an exceedingly small base for a towering monument to Mr. Hanna's generosity.

There is a smoothness which even the president himself might have imparted to the administration press, in the gentle boasting it is indulging in over the abolition of some of the stamp taxes. Confiding readers ignorant of the facts might suppose that an onerous tax burden imposed by an enemy of Mr. McKinley and the people had been removed through the success at last of Mr. McKinley's devoted efforts to that end. Yet what is the fact. A war tax, for the support of a war which ended nearly three years ago, and the expenses of which while it lasted were borne principally by borrowed funds, has been reduced less than half!

From a news item which passed through these columns last week, condensed from telegraphic reports, it appears that the supreme court of Tennessee has decided that as women are not constitutionally eligible to office, and as lawyers are "officers of the court," therefore women are ineligible to the bar. That decision may yet have to be very subtly "distinguished." The constitution of Tennessee forbids any person from holding more than one lucrative office at

the same time. Now the office of lawyer, though not always lucrative in fact is so often enough, one would suppose, to bring it in legal theory within the category of a lucrative office; and if that be so, what would the supreme court say to the eligibility of members of the Tennessee bar to other lucrative offices in that state?

At least one member of the Alabama constitutional convention, now in session, has the true perception of some of the important civic benefits that flow from universal suffrage. As reported by the Daphne Standard of the 28th, he said in a speech on the subject upon the floor of the convention "that he believed that the duties and responsibilities of citizenship can only be properly appreciated by him who exercises it, and the more he exercises it the more deeply interested he becomes." This statement is true, even with reference to existing political conditions, in greater degree than is usually supposed. It would still more correctly describe the effect of universal suffrage in elevating the plane of citizenship, if voters had more frequent opportunities to vote directly upon public questions instead of being confined in their voting to passing upon personal ambitions in contests for office between John Doe and Richard Roe.

Mark Twain's indictment of missionaries for looting in China appears now to be sustained by the official army report of Gen. Chaffee. The gist of Mark's charges was that Christian missionaries, backed by armed soldiers, intimidated the already demoralized Chinese and not only extorted from them private indemnities, regardless of all responsibility, moral or legal, but compelled payments in excess of actual losses. This accusation is supported by Gen. Chaffee's

report of the case of the Rev. E. G. Tewksbury, an American missionary. According to the press dispatches from Washington, Gen. Chaffee appends to his report original correspondence, which, together with the report itself, confirmed by the correspondence, exhibits the following state of facts: Mr. Tewksbury asked for a detachment of American troops to accompany him upon an expedition to exact money and lands from Chinese for damages sustained by native Christian converts during the Boxer revolt. The American minister, Mr. Conger, approved this request, and Gen. Chaffee complied with it, though in doing so he expressed his doubt of "the propriety of Mr. Tewksbury's entering upon the settlement of any claim for damages, whether of Chinese Christians or any other persons." A guard was accordingly furnished Mr. Tewksbury, under the command of Lieut. Guiney. So equipped this militant missionary visited four towns where mission property and property of native Christians had been destroyed, messages having been first forwarded demanding—

a money indemnity for the property of the native Christians destroyed; land for a cemetery; church location; and six acres of land to support the minister.

Lieut. Guiney's report of the expedition should make the blood of American Christians tingle with shame. He writes:

The whereabouts of most of the Christians to whom this property belonged is unknown. Mr. Tewksbury says the money is to be used to support refugees. It was reported to me that at Fu Hao two or three times the amount asked for was collected. The difference was probably kept by the chief men of the village, who had charge of the collection. This money was collected by the men who did the damage, from inhabitants who are now and always have been peaceful. Large amounts were sent into Tung Chow, and a considerable sum was collected in Tung Chow itself. I know of this indirectly, and Mr. Tewksbury promised to give a complete account of it to the American minister in Peking. I requested Mr. Tewksbury to give me the name of every person making a claim for damages, amount of damage claimed and character of settlement made. He

replied that he did not know the men whose property was destroyed nor their whereabouts, but he thought he could get the names from some of the native members of his church who were assisting him in collecting money.

In this high handed, lawless, immoral and eminently un-Christian manner Mr. Tewksbury collected as indemnity for alleged losses (most of which he knew nothing about), through Chinese officials who had caused the losses and from Chinamen who had not, the sum of nearly \$12,000 in money. In addition he acquired deeds to 96 acres of land for missionary purposes. Mark Twain's excoriation of the looting missionaries makes more interesting reading than Chaffee's report, but it is no whit more damning.

It would be altogether unfair to bunch all Christian missionaries in with the Tewksbury class. The race of devoted missionaries has not quite run out. There are men in the missionary field to-day as faithful as those of the earlier days of Christianity. But in these sordid times, when the measure of all merit has the dollar for its unit, and the needle's eye has been enlarged for the accommodation not only of camels but of elephants, the faithful missionary who best exemplifies his Master's message is not so familiar a type of his order as those who play the game of cent per cent. with loaded guns, and play to win. All the more honor for that very reason to the missionaries who still keep the golden rule right side up.

When Sir Claude Macdonald, the British minister to Japan, and during the Chinese troubles the British minister at Peking, passed through Chicago on his way home for a brief vacation, he paid an unwitting compliment to the civilization of the Chinese. Explaining to a newspaper man the military weakness of China, he mentioned as one factor that prevents China from becoming a military power the fact that—

the Chinese soldier is regarded as at the bottom of the social scale. In

Japan the soldier, as in Germany, is a social factor, and the merchant, while respected, is not accorded so high a position in the national society. In China the reverse is the case.

Which, say you, good Christian friend, is the higher civilization, other things being equal, that which consigns the man butcher to the lowest plane of respectability, or that which puts him at the top?

A sad wail now goes up from the democratic press of the species Bourbon. To get rid of Bryan it has been urging "reorganization," with the bolting leaders on top. But now that Bryan declares himself out of the race for the presidential nomination, the Bourbons begin to realize that what has stood in their way is not Bryan, but an overwhelming democratic sentiment in the party, which Bryan represents; and they berate him for not taking off his coat and magnanimously leading the masses of the party over to the support of Bourbonism. Notwithstanding all their jibes and jeers at Bryan, they have at last discovered him to be a political force of the first order, which they need, but cannot control. Hence their wails. But Mr. Bryan's position is a very simple, a very honorable, and a very wise one. While declaring that he is not a candidate for the nomination, that he has no choice among candidates—has neither friends to reward nor enemies to punish,—that he will not oppose even men who supported the republican candidate in 1896 and 1900 if they sincerely repent, yet he asserts his unalterable purpose to do everything in his power to prevent the saddling upon the democratic party of leaders and doctrines that remain hostile to the departure from Bourbonism which it made in 1896 and confirmed in 1900. In other words, Mr. Bryan will neither participate in nor encourage, either actively or passively, a reorganization of the democratic party along virtually republican lines or under virtually republican leadership. "The identity of the democratic candidate for