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EDITORIAL

The Bellamy Storer Incident.

Except as a newspaper sensation, the personal controversy between President Roosevelt and Mr. Bellamy Storer is of little value. But if it should lead on to a disclosure of the facts regarding the relationship of Archbishop Ireland et al. to the Presidential campaigns of 1900 and 1904, with which it is connected, American history in some

of its politico-ecclesiastical aspects would be enriched.

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Roosevelt and the Japanese Question.

We hardly expected when we approved President Roosevelt's reasons for his proposed method of dealing with the Japanese question (p. 841), that we should be understood as also approving the method he proposed. The reasons given were democratic; the method proposed is imperialistic. To give the Federal government authority to exercise local police power would be destructive of the home rule principle, which is the sheet anchor of democracy. It would turn States into mere subdivisions of an empire. But though this is true, it is none the less true that States ought not to make or allow discriminations against the rights of their inhabitants on grounds of class or race differences. Mr. Roosevelt's strong indictment of such discrimination is what we approved last week, and we approve it still, for it is genuinely democratic. We do not approve his imperialistic conclusion. Unsound conclusions from sound reasoning, even to the extent of justifying imperialistic practice upon democratic principle, is no novelty—especially with Mr. Roosevelt.

* *

Mayor Johnson and Cleveland Traction.

The subsidized newspapers of the Plunderbund have been vociferous during the past few days in again denouncing Mayor Johnson of Cleveland for his alleged financial interest in the three-cent car line grants of that city (p. 749), the grants which threaten to put the traction plunderbund of Cleveland out of business by turning over all traction interests to the city itself. Mr. Johnson and Mr. Scripps of the Scripps newspaper league, in the interest of the city and of no other interest, guaranteed the financial backers of this municipal reform against loss. On the basis of that fact, the "Con-Con" company brought a suit to annul the grants, on the ground that Johnson had a financial interest in the matter. The implication is that he was to profit by it. The fact is that he cannot make a penny. All profits go to the city—directly as soon as the law will permit, and meantime indirectly through a municipal holding company. Instead of submitting to the delay involved in a trial, Mayor Johnson demurred to the complaint. In legal practice this proceeding tem-