

It is an easy matter in this age to sneer at men who cling to their ideals and who make morals and philosophy their guide, and no one is more competent to do this sneering than Mr. Watterson. But the thoughtful student of current history finds only one fact to keep him from falling into the darkest pessimism: it is, that in the midst of the selfishness and injustice that the future historian will have to record against this country, there yet remains a party composed of men who would rather "play it right" and lose, than play it wrong and win; and who, through fair fortune and through foul, will continue to make their ideals the aim of life. \*

## NEWS

President McKinley's tour, which was interrupted at San Francisco last week by the alarming illness of Mrs. McKinley, has not yet been resumed. It was feared on the 16th that Mrs. McKinley would die. The 17th also was a depressing day to the watchers at her bedside. But on the 18th she was stronger, and hopes of her recovery revived. She was able to leave her bed on the 19th, from which time recovery was rapid. No date, however, has yet been set for the president's departure from San Francisco.

Members of the cabinet were requested by the president to keep all their engagements, regardless of Mrs. McKinley's illness; and on the 21st the president himself reviewed 45,000 San Francisco school children, and made them an impromptu speech, in which he said:

Nothing has given me more pleasure in my long trip from the Atlantic to the Pacific than the scene which we have witnessed here this morning. Every child waving the flag of our faith and our hope, and every little heart filled with the love of country. What an army for liberty and union and civilization! Why, we have in the public schools of the United States fourfold more children than there were people when this government was founded, and all of them proud of their country, and all of them revering its institutions, and all of them meaning that when the time comes for them to take the responsibilities of administration they will be prepared to do their duty and pass along this free government with

ever increasing virtue, intelligence and patriotism.

Prior to this Mr. McKinley, with Gov. Nash, of Ohio, attended the ceremony of launching the American battleship Ohio. A workingmen's demonstration was arranged in the president's honor at the Union iron works, where the ship had been built, and in responding with a speech, he said:

What we want is to build more ships. We ought to have a good commercial line from here to the Philippines, made in the Union iron works—built by American workingmen and manned by American sailors and carrying the American flag. There is nothing in this world that brings people so close together as commerce. There is nothing in this world that so promotes the universal brotherhood of man as commerce, and we want to encourage commerce. The nations are close together now. The powers of the earth are tied together. We have overcome distance. We not only want a commercial line, but we want a cable line from here to the Philippines. We want it to be an American cable. That cannot be cut by any power in the world. They say trade follows the flag. The telegraph must follow trade. My fellow citizens, we have got problems before us. We never had more important ones. We have expanded. Do you want to contract? It is not a question of whether we will acquire the Philippines or Porto Rico or Guam or Wake Island or Hawaii or Tuituila. We have acquired them; they are ours. The question is, shall we give them up? And from one end of this country to the other comes the answer. They are ours, not to subjugate, but to emancipate; not to rule in the power of might, but to take to those distant people the principles of liberty, of freedom, of conscience and of opportunity that are enjoyed by the people of the United States. Our flag never goes anywhere except it carries blessings. Our flag never oppressed anybody, but it has given freedom to every people over whom it has floated.

The relations of Cuba with the United States are assuming more satisfactory shape. On the 16th the committee on relations, to which, as reported last week, the constitutional convention had referred the report of the committee to Washington, came to a vote by which the majority were understood to recommend acceptance of the Platt amendment; and on the 20th, at a secret session of the convention, a majority and a minority report were read. The majority re-

port, omitting the introduction, was as follows:

Inasmuch as Secretary Root, being authorized by President McKinley, says that the Platt law has for its object the guaranteeing of the independence of Cuba, and does not mean interference with its government or the exercise of a protectorate or of sovereignty, and also that intervention will only take place when independence is endangered by outside powers or grave interior disturbances, creating anarchy; and inasmuch as Secretary Root has said that the naval stations will not be used for vantage points of intervention, but only to protect Cuba against foreign powers, we report as follows:

That, in virtue of the fact that the Platt law, in its preamble, says it is a fulfillment of the joint resolution and has been adopted by congress with the principal object of establishing independence, we do propose to the convention to accept the following as an appendix to the constitution:

1. That the government of Cuba shall never enter into any treaty or other compact with any foreign power or powers, which will impair or tend to impair the independence of Cuba, nor in any manner authorize or permit any foreign power or powers to obtain by colonization or for military or naval purposes or otherwise lodgment in or control over any portion of said island.

2. That said government shall not assume or contract any public debt, to pay the interest upon which, and to make reasonable sinking fund provision for the ultimate discharge of which, the ordinary revenues of the island, after defraying the current expenses of government, shall be inadequate.

3. That the government of Cuba consents that the United States may exercise the right to intervene for the preservation of Cuban independence, the maintenance of a government adequate for the protection of life, property and individual liberty, and for discharging the obligations with respect to Cuba imposed by the treaty of Paris on the United States, now to be assumed and undertaken by the government of Cuba.

It being understood that the United States have the right to intervene to prevent the action of a foreign power or disturbances causing a state of anarchy, and that the intervention always shall be the act of the United States, and not of isolated agents. The intervention shall suppose neither sovereignty nor a protectorate and shall only last sufficiently long to establish normal conditions. Said intervention, it is also understood, shall not give the right to interfere

in the government, but only the right to preserve independence.

4. That all acts of the United States in Cuba during its military occupancy thereof are ratified and validated, and all lawful rights acquired thereunder shall be maintained and protected.

5. That the government of Cuba will execute, and as far as necessary extend, the plans already devised or other plans to be mutually agreed upon, for the sanitation of the cities of the island, to the end that a recurrence of epidemic may be prevented, thereby assuring protection to the people and commerce of Cuba, as well as to the commerce of the southern ports of the United States and the people residing therein.

6. That the Isle of Pines shall be omitted from the proposed constitutional boundaries of Cuba, the title thereto being left to future adjustment by treaty.

7. That to enable the United States to maintain the independence of Cuba, and to protect the people thereof, as well as for its own defense, the government of Cuba will sell or lease to the United States lands necessary for coaling or naval stations at certain specified points, to be agreed upon with the president of the United States.

It shall be understood that the naval stations do not give the United States the right to interfere with the interior government, but are established for the sole purpose of protecting American waters from foreign invasion directed against Cuba or the United States. Cuba will sell or lease the necessary lands at points to be agreed upon later.

8. That by way of further assurance the government of Cuba will embody the foregoing provisions in a permanent treaty with the United States.

And the government of Cuba suggests at the same time a treaty of commerce with the United States, based upon reciprocity.

The appendix to the Cuban constitution thus proposed by the majority of the committee is the Platt amendment to the American army appropriation bill entire (see vol. iii., p. 763), with the addition of the second paragraph in clause 3, the second paragraph in clause 7, and the second paragraph in clause 8. The minority report virtually accepted the first and second clauses of the majority report, and for the third, fourth and seventh clauses proposed to substitute the following:

3. That the government of Cuba subscribes to the Monroe doctrine and will help the United States to enforce it against other nations trying to violate it.

4. Cuba does not recognize acts

of intervention which are not in conformity with the Foraker resolution and the laws of the United States.

7. Cuba will maintain naval stations, handing them over to the United States in time of war.

What disposition the minority report made of the fifth, sixth and eighth clauses the press reports fail to state; but they explain that it recommended a commercial reciprocity treaty, and they quote the following comment upon the Platt amendment:

The explanations given to the commission in Washington show that the Platt law does not express the wishes of the United States. It was intended to protect the independence of Cuba, but the wording gives other interpretations. The United States are inconsistent in asking naval stations, when the amendment provides that no concessions shall be given to foreign powers. Such a demand raises the question whether the United States do not consider Cuba a part of their possessions.

Upon receiving the foregoing reports the Cuban constitutional convention adjourned until the 21st, when the minority of the committee, Gualbero Gomez and Silva, withdrew the minority report described above, and substituted for it a majority report which was prepared by the committee prior to the departure of the commission for Washington (see page 10), but was never acted upon by the convention, because it rejected clauses 3, 6, 7 and 8 of the Platt amendment. The whole subject is now under debate in the convention.

A settlement of the Albany strike has been made which, as reported last week, had developed into a riot. The street car company began to operate cars on the 16th, under strong military guards which dispersed the mobs that gathered along the way. Early in the morning one street crowd was attacked by the militia, first with bayonets and then with rifle butts, but there were no casualties. Each car was manned with a nonunion crew and a detail of militia. No shooting was done, however, until early in the evening. A truck then delayed an armed car, and out from the crowd of bystanders which this delay collected, a stone was thrown at the car. It went wide of the mark. Farther on, the truck again delayed the car, and a crowd collected there. Here another stone was hurled at the car. Whether it struck is not reported. Probably it did, for the officer in command im-

mediately caused his soldiers to open fire upon the crowd. The volley killed two merchants who were sitting in front of the store of one of them; and when the ambulance arrived, one nonunion motorman was found with a fractured skull, another had been wounded with a shot, and two bystanders had been seriously wounded, one with a bayonet and the other with a bullet. The next day, the 17th, was comparatively quiet. In the evening the city council appointed a committee to confer with both sides to the strike; and notice was given that if the strike were not settled by the 20th, a resolution would be introduced in the council repealing the ordinance permitting the street car company to erect poles and electric wires. On the 18th a settlement was made on the basis of a three years' agreement, the important part of which is as follows:

Any man suspended or discharged by the superintendent shall be entitled to appeal to the company; the company will pay all employes suspended by the company and found not guilty; there will be no discrimination against any of the men on account of the strike except those under arrest, or who within the next ten days may be arrested for riotous or unlawful acts; the company is free to employ union or nonunion men and to discharge them for cause. The wages of all the men, except pit men's helpers, who shall receive 17½ cents an hour, shall be 20 cents per hour. No proposition for a strike shall be acted upon by any division of the union at the same meeting at which it is introduced. If a strike shall be ordered it shall not take effect until at least six days after notice to the company, during which time the employes shall continue their work.

Under this agreement the striking employes returned to work.

The 20th was the day set, as was explained last week, for the peremptory demand of the machinists of the United States, Mexico and Canada, for a nine-hour day without reduction of wages. When the time came the strike began. It was estimated that 50,000 machinists quit work on that day. Many settlements, however, have since been made by different shops with their own employes, and it is not improbable now that the strike may succeed without very much disturbing industrial conditions.

Labor representatives in Great Britain are reported to be considering a