CURRENT COMMENT.

Notes and Comments, Political and Otherwise, on Matters of Interest.

By Andrew J. Palm.

Gold is to be made the standard, the only standard of value. Gold that has played the coward and traitor in every time of danger, gold that sneaked away at the first alarm of conflict in our civil war and did not come out of its hole till long after the danger was over, gold that never was true to any nation in time of dire distress brazenly comes to the front and asks to be crowned king, and the demand has been granted. Wall street's god, the golden calf, is to be set up as a fetich for the nation to worship. Great is the power of mammon. Supreme at last is the will of Wall street.

Who says that monopoly doesn't ? The Pullman Car company has n declaring 8 per cent dividends on 1,000,000 of stock, and in addition a ssent of $18,000,000 in stock has been made to the stockholders. The stock has been watered over and over again until it is now many times the amount paid in, yet the public must pay big dividends on the whole $54,000,000. Since the Wagner nd Pullman companies have united the last hope of anything better from the Pullman company has disappeared. If this were a government of the people, by the people and for the people, something would be done, and that right speedily.

Mark Hanna is annoyed by the many suggestive cartoons in which he is made to appear as the leading man. With an air of injured innocence he declares that the position of United States senator should be one of dignity. Marcus is quite right, but unfortunately in this world, populated chiefly by sinners, of whom Mark is not the least, and what should be is not permitted to be. Senators who get their seats by bribery should be ousted and consigned to political oblivion, but instead of that they are sometimes placed at the head of their party. It is the man and not the position from which dignity must come. Some men would dignify a prison cell, while others would disgrace a throne. Marcus Aurelius Hanna doesn't belong to the first class.

The independents have been making much ado over Beveridge's speech in the senate. He was selected to go over to the Philippines because of his spouting ability and not because he is a man likely to say anything against his employer. His speech was the effort of a special pleader, and to a great extent squarely contradicts Prof. Schurman, the head of McKinley's Philippine commission. Analyzed, Beveridge's speech simply means that because the Philippines offer a good opening for American speculators and office holders and has abundant room on which to plant the American flag we should take the islands by force. All this, of course, in the name of God and destiny. Beveridge had spent months in preparing his speech and repeated it verbatim as written, yet Senator Hoar punctured his bubble in a ten minute speech.

The man who looks for the Republican party to kill the trusts might as reasonably expect a father to murder his own offspring. The leaders of the party are sharers in the plunder of the trusts, and the policy of the party for years has been indicated by men prominent in trusts, syndicates, combinations and monopolies. The party that imposes a high protective tariff to enable the manufacturer to sell goods to his countrymen at a higher price than he sells them abroad will never lay a straw in the way of trusts. The G. O. P. will, of course, threaten them with dreadful things in its platform to fool the rank and file, as it has done for a generation on the silver question, but do anything to curb the trusts! Never. Why the senate a few days ago killed an amendment to the census bill which proposed that the census should include information regarding trusts. Dictator McKinley and his advisers are sorry that the people know as much about trusts as they do, and he will take good care that the census doesn't add anything to their information.

Prof. Jacob G. Schurman, president of Cornell university and chairman of the United States commission to the Philippine Islands, is of course an advocate of McKinley's policy of benevolent assimilation. If he hadn't been he would not have found a place on the commission. It's a bitter dose, however, judging from the wry faces he makes when giving out information for McKinley's benefit on the Philippine question. In a recent article in The Independent he says that he considers Aguinaldo an honest man, animated by the highest idea of loyalty to independence. This was about all that could be said of our revolutionary forefathers. He says that the Filipinos knew the white man by one specimen, and they will not trust any of them. From what the Filipinos have seen of the Spanish and of our soldiers would Schurman ask them to trust them? Mr. Schurman says the sight of a drunken man creates disgust in the mind of the Filipino, and this argues that the Filipino is in this respect at least considerably in advance of the average white man. He declares that he never saw a Filipino drunk. Take it all in all, it is hard to see where Mr. McKinley is to find any comfort in Prof. Schurman's article. Toward the close Mr. Schurman says: "But one thing I wish to emphasize more than any other one point I have dwelt upon. We must make an honest civil service a permanent institution on the islands." Prof. Schurman well knows that McKinley needs a scoring on this matter, for how could we expect the president to have an honest civil service in the Philippines when he has incurred the contempt of all honest intelligent civil service reformers by his course at home? Schurman feels in his soul that our treatment of the Filipino is outrageous, but he dare not say so. His whole article clearly carries out the idea that his sympathies are with the brown man. At the beginning he was outspoken against the slaughter of the Filipinos, but, like others, he was bribed into favor by getting a place of profit and prominence.

REFLECTIONS OF AN ARTIST.

Pictures of a Poor Quality Are Often the Nucleus to a Fine Collection.

"Many a nucleus to a fine art collection has been laid in a few pictures of poor quality," said a well-known art connoisseur to a Washington Star reporter. "Whenever a man comes to my studio, looks over the pictures and buys the canvas that really pleases him," he continued, "I am fairly well satisfied that he is destined to make a notable collection if he has the necessary means, no matter what bad taste or lack of taste he shows in his first selections. It is only the man who has no confidence in his own judgment, and who buys only what others tell him are good, for whom I have no hope. The fact is a picture is an educator and the man or woman who buys one and studies it is sure, sooner or later, to discover its faults and its fine points, no matter how blind they were to them at first and no matter what flimsy trick of the artist they were attracted by.

"Try it yourself if you doubt the truth of this assertion. You may know nothing of art. Buy a picture that pleases you, hang it where you can see it daily and look at it frequently. You will need no instruction to learn whether it has merit or is filled with defects. Many an art collector has been educated in this way. By and by the daub is replaced by a better picture, and the novice instinctively becomes a competent judge of what is meritorious or bad in art."

EXHIBIT BY THE NEGRO.

It Will Have a Place in the United States Sociological Department at Paris.

Under the auspices of the United States government, the American negro is to have a distinctive exhibit at the Paris exposition. Thomas J. Calloway, of Washington, a prominent colored man, has been appointed to prepare this exhibit.

A limited space has been set aside in the United States exhibit in sociology for this feature. It is aimed to show that "the people of African descent in America are civilized, Christianized, possessors of vast educational privileges. They are owners of perhaps half a billion dollars' worth of property. They are engaged in every industry and pursuit common to white Americans, and universally accredited with rapid progress. America can therefore furnish Europe with much evidence of the negro's value as a laborer, a producer and a citizen, that the statecraft of the old world will be wiser in the shaping of its African policies."

The leading colored intercolonial institutions of the United States are arranging for creditable exhibits.

There are more than a dozen other features of the negro exhibit under way.

Every New England state will be called upon to contribute toward the exhibit.

OFFICIAL BATHTUBS.

From This Account We Learn How the Legislators Indulge in Their Ablutions.

Away down in the basement of the capitol, in the midst of the winding and mysterious passages of this subterranean section, are located the congressional bathrooms, where the statesmen cleanse their cuticles at the expense of Uncle Sam. There are about 15 tubs on the house side, and when congress is in session they are patronized at all hours of the day. The representatives who take their periodic tubbings in the capitol bathrooms are not bound by any particular hour or rule of bathing. They start in at any hour of the day (or night, if the house sits late), and are scrubbed and rubbed down by strong-armed attendants at government expense. The fact that the tubs are almost constantly occupied indicates the extent to which the privilege of a free bath is appreciated. In many of the hotels of the city patronized by congressmen a charge is made for the use of the bath, and the thrifty representative can get around this expense by making his ablutions at the capitol, says the Washington Star.

In both the senate and house wings of the capitol there are barber shops, where statesmen are shaved, and hair tonics, perfumes and soaps furnished by the government, so that if one has a mind to, the usual expenses of the barber shop can be avoided.

The Bicycle Among the Hindus.

In an article, "A Hindu Home," in the December number of the Nineteenth Century, Hon. J. D. Rees tells how "at the sixth mile we meet the raja mounted, not on an elephant, but on a bicycle, and, but that an attendant with a broad gold sash over his shoulder runs in front and another behind, you might almost take him for common clay on a bike." Arrived at the palace, he finds that the rani is, from a domestic point of view, monarch of all he surveys, and her Brahmin husband bears the same relation to her that the late prince consort bore to Queen Victoria. The rani tells Mr. Rees that after breakfast "you can ride my son's bicycle in the courtyard, and my little boy, aged five, will ride his tricycle, and when I get a bicycle for my big daughter the party will be complete."

Armored Trains.

Armored trains, which are taking such an important part in the present campaign, usually consist of a powerful engine, three iron tracks, a water tank and a passenger car. The sides are raised six feet, with three quarter-inch boiler plates, and perforated with horizontal slits for the accommodation of rifles and Maxims. Each vehicle is capable of holding 50 or 60 men easily.

Midnight Philosophy.

Mrs. Squills—Quick! Quick! Wake up! I believe there are burglars downstairs. Go down and see.

Mr. Squills (sleepily) — Nonsense! Nothing but a cat.

Mrs. S.—Hark! There! I know there are burglars downstairs.

Mr. S. (nervously)—Well—er—if you know they are there it's no use going down to find out.—N. Y. Weekly.

None of His Business.

"Sir," began young Timkins, as he entered the presence of the dear girl's father, "I want to marry your daughter—"

"Oh, don't bother me with your troubles," interrupted the old gentleman. "She told me some time ago that she intended to marry you, so you'll have to settle it between yourselves."—Tit-Bits.

Trust Conference.

He tried to stand off the grocery
For some sugar and ham and a pound of tea,
But the grocer said "Nit,
No trust—not a bit,
I'm an anti-trust advocate—see?"
—Baltimore American.

OF COURSE IT'S MEAN.

"Why, how mean! Here I notice through the keyhole that my lady is prying into the writing desk of my master—how can she be so inquisitive?"—Jugend.

Both Modest.

Why cry for the moon, my wee laddie?
Is there, then, of toys such a dearth?
Why, child, you want more than your daddy,
For he only asks for the earth.
—Detroit Free Press.

Knew the Sex.

"She says she will never, never marry."

"Is that all she said?"

"Certainly."

"Didn't complete the sentence?"

"Why, it's complete as it stands, isn't it?"

"Hardly. She should have added: 'Unless I get a chance.'"—Chicago Post.

Of Some Use.

"Yes," admitted Uncle Reuben Throstledyke, with some reluctance, "I did buy a gold brick wunst fur $700, but the money wuzn't altogether throwed away. My wife uses the brick fur keeping her feet warm these cold winter nights."—Chicago Tribune.

A Sort of Combination.

Briggs—Stubbs says he has been working so hard at his business that he hasn't seen his wife for weeks.

Griggs—I should say that that was combining business with pleasure.—Town Topics.

The Real Thing.

Ferdinald—And do you really love me?

Penelope — Love you, Ferdinald! Why, only yesterday papa asked me if I wouldn't sooner have a cocker spaniel, and I refused!—Puck.

She Knew.

At a recent examination in chemistry in a high school not far from Boston, the teacher asked a young lady to give an example of a vegetable fat. "Leaf lard," was the prompt reply.—Boston Transcript.

His Line of Criticism.

"I understand," said the neighbor, "that your husband is a dramatic critic."

"No," replied the little woman, bitterly; "he is even worse than that. He is a household critic."—Chicago Post.

Settled for Some Years.

Visiting Curate—Ah, my friend, you should reflect on the fact that we are here to-day and gone to-morrow.

Convict—You may be—I ain't.—Tit-Bits.

Spring Chickens.

"Did that farmer guarantee this to be a spring chicken?"

"Yes, he did. He said he could hardly catch it to kill—it was so springy."—Philadelphia Bulletin.

Judging by Appearances.

Tommy—Say, Jimmie, wot is classical music?

Jimmie—It's the kind you can't understand unless you wear long hair.—N. Y. Journal.

The Average.

"Pa, what's an average man?"

"One who thinks his employer's business would be run a good deal better if he could have more to say about it himself."—Chicago Times-Herald.

One Man's Views.

She—It's a woman's privilege to change her mind, you know.

He—Yes, and her age, too, but she takes her time in doing it. — Chicago Record.

Never Easy.

Mrs. Stocksand—What do the papers mean when they say "money is easy?"

Mr. Stocksand—That, my dear, is the innate love in the American heart for a joke.—Town Topics.

He Drove Well.

Husband—I was driven to drink.

Wife—Well, you didn't balk say, John.—Town Topics.

Not a Moment Wasted.

Husband—Please to hurry, or we shall be late again! I wonder how many years of your life you have wasted in asking whether your hat was on straight?

Wife—Hush! I have never wasted a moment. Is my hat on straight now?—Town Topics.

Apparently.

Teacher—What animal contents itself with the least amount of food?

Pupil—The moth.

Teacher—Wrong. On the contrary, the moth is a very greedy animal.

Pupil—But it eats nothing but holes.—N. Y. World.

His Point of View.

"Don't you think the stage is becoming sadly immoral?"

"Not necessarily," answered Mr. Stormington Barnes. "But it does strike me that the taste of audiences is becoming more depraved every season."—Washington Star.

Distinction.

"I don't blame you for discharging your maid," said the friend. "She wasn't worth her salt."

"All that I objected to," said Miss Cayenne, "was her fiery temper. She was worth her salt, but she wasn't worth her pepper."—Washington Star.

Vegetables.

"Did you buy those cigars of mine at a cigar store?" he asked.

"Certainly," she replied. "Where did you think I bought them?"

"I wasn't certain that you didn't get them at your green grocer's."—Philadelphia North American.

Smoke.

The chimneys that loom up so high
Are like the men we know;
Ofttimes there's lots of smoke above,
And little fire below.
—Chicago Times-Herald.

Worth Reading.

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