

The Centre Democrat.

CHAS. R. KURTZ, -- EDITOR & PROP

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EDITORIAL.

DESOLATION.

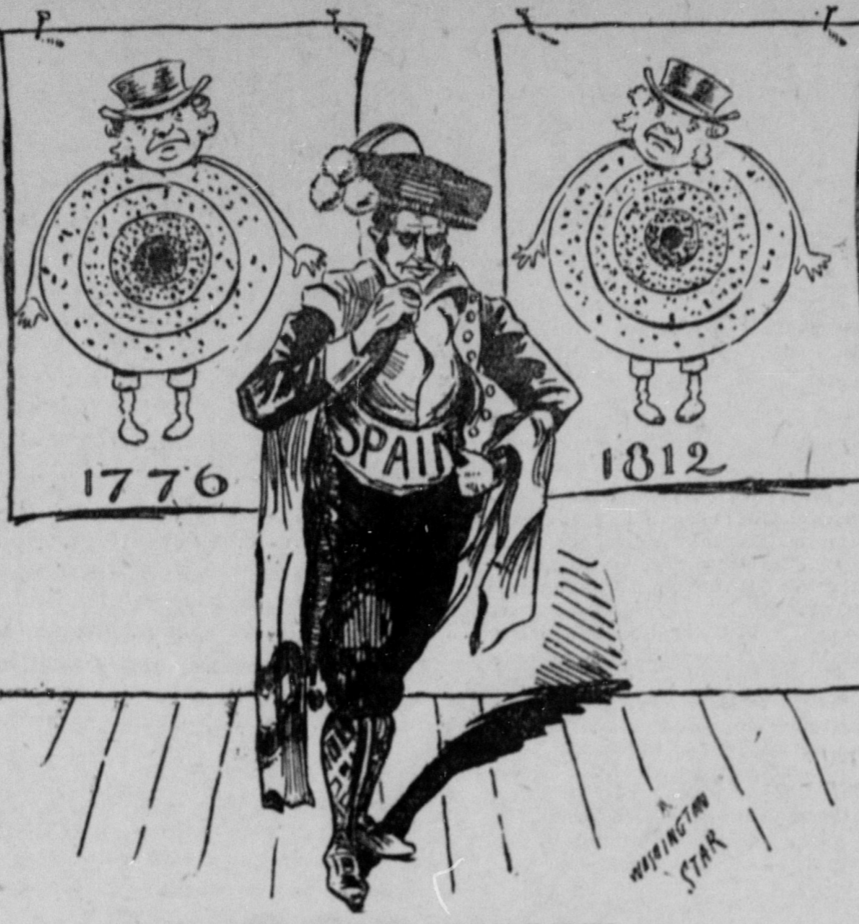
The self-styled "better element" and "the conservative newspapers," who have been accustomed to dismiss all accounts of the deplorable condition of the people of Cuba and the extreme cruelties of the Spaniards as "pure inventions and sensational stories" have received a sudden quietus in the report of Senator Proctor, of Vermont. He says he went to Cuba believing that the pictures of misery and suffering had been greatly overdrawn, but he found that "words could not draw the picture in all its horrors."

land defense has been superior to the attack by sea where the conditions have been anything like equal. The last bombardment of land fortifications by ships of the old style was that of Sebastopol during the Crimean war, and the victory certainly did not lie with the ships, although the defenders in their tiers of stone casemate batteries suffered severely. A noteworthy feature of that occasion was the damage inflicted on several of the ships of the allied squadrons by the "wasp battery," as it was nicknamed by the British naval men, armed with only one heavy gun placed in an improvised work on the summit of a hill overlooking the entrance to the harbor. The bombardment of Vladivostok by the British squadron in the China seas at the same time was a signal failure, and ended in the suicide of the Admiral commanding.

With what assurance, then, may not the men charged with the defense of our coasts prepare to receive an attack from whatever quarter it may come, once the preparations now making are completed. The material and scientific appliances at their disposal are immensely superior to those of 20 years ago, but they must in everything be kept abreast of the improvements in other countries. Without land defenses supplemented with coast and harbor defenses monitors of moderate speed, light draught, and heavy armament, local torpedo boat flotillas, and the channels protected by submerged mines, the country possessing a tremendous force of seagoing war vessels would hesitate before undertaking a war of naval aggression against this country.

FREE COINAGE—WHAT IT MEANS. Many persons misapprehend the meaning of this phrase. It has no reference to the charges made at the mints for the bullion deposited for coinage. It is the practice of nearly all nations to charge at their mints an amount sufficient to pay the absolute cost of conversion, and to make the mint self-sustaining. The application of the stamp after the metal has been melted, refined and prepared for coinage is made without any charge, and hence the phrase, free coinage, may be properly applied. In common parlance we call it free coinage when a person can take his bullion to the mint and have it converted into standard money without charge, except a small fee for preparing the bullion for the stamp. The popular use of the phrase "the free and unlimited coinage of silver" means that silver is to be coined upon the same terms and conditions which are applied to the coinage of gold. If a charge is made for the alloy in one it shall be to both. In other words, there shall be no distinction in favor of either, but absolute equality recognized. All the advocates of silver ask is the unlimited coinage of both silver and gold at the ratio of 16 to 1.

WHY WE SHOULD ARM. The disaster of the Maine will not have been entirely without its use if, besides bringing the country to see the necessity for putting our coast defenses immediately in a condition to repel attack, it also opens its eyes to the necessity of their being kept permanently in an efficient state, fully manned and up to the military requirements of the time. Past experience has shown that, as a rule, the



THE TOREADOR'S SOLILOQUY. "THOSE YANKEES ARE PRETTY GOOD BULL FIGHTERS THEMSELVES."

FOOD FOR THOUGHT.

In all the ages and in every civilized state gold has been the money of the rich and silver has always been the money of the world's toilers. Cheaper money and higher prices for labor and its product is the demand of intelligent workers in every civilized country on the globe. If both gold and silver are used as mediums of exchange at a fixed ratio it will be impossible for designing men to get up a corner on either. If but one is coined it will be impossible for syndicates to make money scarce and dear—rob the many and enrich the few.

RECONCENTRADOS. The question is frequently asked what or who are reconcentrados? They are the people of the four western provinces of Cuba, who were compelled, by Weyler's order, to leave their homes and come into the fortified towns. The order is as follows:—"I order and command, all the inhabitants of the country or outside of the line of fortifications of towns, shall within the period of eight days, concentrate themselves in the town so occupied by troops. Any individual who after the expiration of this period is found in the uninhabited parts, will be considered a rebel and tried as such."

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RESTRAINING TRUSTS.

So Far All Attempts to Check Them Have Proved Futile.

A writer in The Political Science Quarterly reviews the various legal actions that have been taken under the federal antitrust law of 1890 and shows that the law has practically failed to have any effect in restraining or punishing attempts at monopoly, says the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. One after another the courts on various plausible grounds find that the law cannot be enforced. One after another the actions against the trusts have fallen through, with the result that today there appears to be no possibility of any further federal interference.

But the possibilities of trust fighting are far from exhausted. They have scarcely been touched. With the exception of the federal law, which was ill constructed, nothing has been done to check the trusts. On the contrary much has been done to promote their growth. The tariff law of the present congress favors and feeds them. Courts are packed in their interest.

REPUBLICAN ARGUMENT.

The Reason Dingley's Bill is a Failure is That We Don't Import Enough.

Within the past few days a new champion has stood forward for Mr. Dingley's bill, says the Kansas City Times. Mr. Assistant Secretary Howell of the treasury department has taken his pen in hand. He does not deny that the measure is not producing adequate revenues for the support of the government. No, he admits the big defect—he could not very well do otherwise after his chief's recent deliverance on the subject—but this assistant secretary makes bold to declare that Mr. Dingley's bill is all right, in spite of all. The trouble is with the people, he says. If the people would only import enough, they would find the bill producing ample revenue in short order. Now this is certainly very astonishing. If the people would import as much now as they did in 1895 and 1896, the Dingley bill would produce more than the Wilson bill did, and everything would be lovely. But the people do not do this, laments the treasury department's logician, and so Uncle Sam has a deficit on his hands. Shame on the unpatriotic people!

False Republican Promises. When the New England cotton mills first began to feel the competition of the south, the Republican politicians asserted shamelessly that it was foreign competition. They told the thousands of cotton workers in New England that the Wilson tariff was harming them; that when it was repealed they would be prosperous; that Mr. McKinley's election meant increased wages for them. Mr. McKinley is now nominally president, the Wilson tariff has been replaced by a Republican measure, the cotton mills of New England have their protection. Yet the wages of the employees are to be reduced 10 per cent on New Year's day. More cuts are promised in the next few months. Worse still, the decreases are admitted to be permanent.

Duty of Self Respecting Veterans. Just at the present moment the whole country seems to be aroused over the abuses that have so sadly diverted the pension system from its original purpose. This arousement may be only spasmodic, and it may be the beginning of the movement which must come sooner or later for a revision and purging of the pension roll. Whether it be the one or the other, there is one thing certain—the politician of either party can never be depended upon to bring about reform so long as politics and pensions retain their present intimate relationship. Reform can only be brought about by the honorable, self respecting, patriotic soldiers and sailors of the war.

How Sumner and Hanna Differ. Think of Charles Sumner renting three hotels in Boston, with an enormously expensive lobby in each of them reeking to buy off the revolt in his own party in Massachusetts against his leadership! The great Sumner would have lost his life rather than his character.

McKinley Agreeable All Around. Secretary Gage and Senator Wolcott are bitterly opposed to each other on the question of free silver, but each consoles himself with the fact that President McKinley is in full agreement with him.—Exchange.

THE WONDERS OF SCIENCE

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