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SCRANTON, DECEMBER 28, 1898.

The nub of the proclamation of the American Evacuation commission to the people of Cuba is embodied in the last clause: "Although it is not to be expected from the culture of this city that any one will disturb order or the gravity of the delivery of the island, if any one should so disturb it he shall be immediately suppressed by public force and the American authorities will punish the guilty with severity." Here is the hand of steel in the velvet glove!

Why Not?

Journalists opposed to Senator Quay are greatly perturbed over a report, seemingly having good authority behind it, that the man from Beaver intends to assure those members of the legislature who, though naturally friendly to him, do not want to enter a caucus and vote for him while an indictment is hanging over his head, by writing out his resignation and placing it in the possession of a distinguished person with written instructions that it shall be sent to the governor the day that Quay is convicted on the Gordon-Graham charges, provided that in the event of acquittal it is to be destroyed. The anti-Quayites speak of this as another Quay trick, but what is there tricky about it? Is it not fair?

Bear in mind that the senator and his friends regard these charges as simply part of a carefully planned conspiracy to poison legislation against him. They contend that the circumstantial evidence of the prosecution from start to finish shows a political intent rather than a desire to promote impartially the interests of justice. They consider that the information upon which Quay was indicted could have been presented to the grand jury months before had there been no purpose to play to the galleries during an embittered political campaign; that to let this matter while it is undecided interfere with his re-election would render any candidate for office liable to similar destruction on cooked-up litigation designed to last only until after election. This being their view, why should they tamely submit? What man with a spark of spirit would sit still and let a conspiracy of his political enemies triumph over him for want of an opportunity to meet them in an open court free from set ups against him?

We are not in Senator Quay's confidence in this matter and do not know what his plans are, but it strikes us that the suggested conditional resignation would be a fair and manly act, consistent with his professions of innocence and satisfactory to all open-minded observers of this extraordinary political spectacle. It would enable legislative friends to vote for him with a clear conscience, upon the principle that every man, even a senator of the United States, is entitled to be considered innocent until proved guilty; and it would further challenge his assailants to carry their prosecution to a determination in the sight of all men, leaving no political sacrifices along the way.

With Aguinaldo and the Spanish friars on his hands, it would seem that Admiral Dewey had trouble enough without being placed in charge of Hobson.

Judge Day.

The example which Judge Day sets in putting away political ambition after a brief but brilliant public career is in refreshing contrast to the rule in such cases and does more than anything else to stamp him as a man of the highest type. He could be governor of Ohio by merely saying the word, but he prefers to resume his simple home life among his old-time neighbors and friends, and to renew in a modest way the practice of his chosen profession. He has conducted his name honorably with one of the most notable series of events in American history and this satisfies his desire for political renown.

It is said that at the first opportunity the president will appoint Judge Day to a position on the federal bench. Such an appointment would be in the line of his natural inclination and it would be a token of reward which the public would heartily sanction. The "simple country lawyer" who left his law books in a small Ohio town to conduct the intricate affairs of the state department during one of the most critical periods in our history and who later headed the commission which negotiated the most significant peace since the overthrow of Napoleon, doing his duty without fuss or error at every stage of the proceedings and virtually revolutionizing the fashions of diplomacy by his quiet candor and directness, would be a good man to have on a bench charged with the adjudication of weighty problems.

His presence there would be a guarantee of fair and fearless performance of every duty connected with that high office.

The franchise funds no doubt are willing to agree that colonial government in Cuba is a failure.

A Wise Determination.

A journalist friendly to General Miles asserts that the latter will not again enter into any public controversy over 'salty details in the management of the war, but is collecting in definite form a number of important facts showing mismanagement, and when he has got his evidence in suitable shape he will place it in the hands of the president, for such action as the latter shall deem proper. This applies especially to the matters concerning which Commissioner General Egan is scolded, namely, the inefficiency and alleged abominable quality of some of the food supplied to the army.

We trust that the newspaper writer who makes this assertion does so advisedly. General Miles stands higher

today than ever before in the estimation of the public, but his standing would suffer from a further washing of dirty military linen in the public press. If he has tangible evidence of negligence or crookedness at headquarters the thing to do with it is to take it to the commander-in-chief. William McKinley will not tolerate a general in any place under his command. General Miles can rest assured of that. If he does not possess evidence in support of his criticisms, it will be wise to get hold of some before saying much in public.

If Wever is allowed an opportunity he will doubtless with alacrity place the last nail in the Spanish national coffin.

Inconsistent.

If Colonel Roosevelt shall finally appoint some broken-down political hack to the position of state superintendent of public works, the most important and difficult position within his bestowal, the fault will not be his. For a month he has been bringing every influence at his command to bear upon a number of eminent, non-partisan citizens to induce one of them to accept this call to duty and at last reports all had declined with thanks.

These same men, or others like them, habitually bewail the decadence of American politics as illustrated by the frequency with which unfit men get into public office and exercise in them the ethics of the highwayman, but when a summons comes to them to do a disagreeable duty for the benefit of the state, they plead a thousand excuses, allege they are in no condition to neglect their private business interests, and then lay back and roast the life out of the place-hunter who is the last choice of the appointing power.

It is the same in local affairs. Many who are the first to howl at "bossism" in politics and to bewail every ill word that is said against the workers in public life are the last to be willing to incur any personal sacrifice in the task of bringing about a better order of things. Their devotion to reform begins and ends in the avidity with which they pass censure on others and avoid any public responsibility themselves.

It is a queer world. The governor-elect of Kansas does not believe in capital punishment and therefore will not sign any death-warrant during his term of office. The governor-elect of Kansas would set a better example if he would carry out the spirit of existing laws until he can prevail upon the legislature to make changes to his liking.

The Consent of the Governed.

The Philadelphia Record has not been inclined to view with favor the proposition called expansion in the territorial sense, yet it is fair enough to note the fallacy in one of the favorite arguments of those who oppose this policy—namely, that government of an inferior race without their invitation or consent involves a violation of the Declaration of Independence. "No government," it points out, "exists anywhere in the world by the consent of all of the governed. Thieves and anarchists do not assent to the rules of conduct prescribed in order to protect proprietors in their rights. There are monarchists in republican France and republicans in every European monarchy, while in some of our states the franchise is limited by an educational or other qualification, and those who are disqualified have no voice in the selection of their rulers. Inasmuch as our practical ideals are subjected to the test of expediency even in the commonwealths of our Union, it would not be running counter to our practices to apply the same test to the governments to be established in the island dependencies of the United States." It adds: "That the mass of the inhabitants of the Antilles and the Philippines are no better qualified for complete self-government than were the people of New Orleans at the time of the Louisiana purchase may be true, and there may be as good reasons for limiting control of their own affairs by the former as there were for taking the administration of the first foreign territory ceded to the hands of the dwellers therein. It might be possible to reconcile our institutions with the policy of expansion by establishing autonomous commonwealths in the islands, by assisting the islanders to learn the art of self-government and by protecting them from foreign aggression; but not by robbing us of an empire over subject races and degrading them through the deprivation of all political initiative."

Of course this "might be possible"; in fact, this is precisely what will be done. No sane man seriously contemplates withholding from the native inhabitants of the new dependencies "all political initiative." They are to have as much "initiative" as they can use intelligently and for the general good; but not enough to sacrifice either their own welfare or that of civilization. Their fate is to be in their own keeping save in so far as an American protectorate shall do police and educational duty in the high interest of humanity.

The planting of the American flag upon a pile of uninhabited rocks and guano in the Pacific, known as Wake Island, has caused the Pittsburgh Dispatch to emit its usual anti-imperialist growl against the administration. According to the Dispatch, greedy Uncle Sam has no respect even for the sea fowls. If anti-imperialism had a few more advocates like the Dispatch it would be ridiculous, its inevitable fate would be hastened.

Nobody can complain at the sentence passed on the "badger" Moore. Nineteen years in prison will probably not make a man of him, but it will be nineteen years of protection to susceptible male heirs. Now if the woman can be sentenced similarly a nauseating sensation can be assigned to oblivion and the patrons of yellow journalism treated to some new stink.

The grip respects only people who are careful with their clothing and diet.

NEWS AND COMMENT

In speaking of the information which came to the peace commissioners at Paris and how they were considering the Philippine problem Senator Frye informs the Washington Star: "You can hardly conceive anything more outrageous and horrible than the treatment of the Spanish government of the Philippines. The evidence furnished us of cruelty and brutality, disclosed a situation far more shocking than anything we have heard of in the treatment in Cuba. The practices of the insular government were in vogue. Colonel Whittier showed us a number of statutes, made by a Filipino who was a Spanish prisoner, illustrating the modes of torture inflicted upon prisoners by the Spanish religious orders—not by the local priests, who are kind and toward the people, but by the Jesuits, who are engaged in educational work and are doing great good, but by the religious orders from outside. The inhumanity of these people upon the inhabitants of the Philippines is too horrible for contemplation. One of the statutes related a man with a ring through his nose attached to a rope running through a pulley to the ceiling, and a friar hitting him off his feet by the nose and then letting him hang by the nose until he was dead. Another was a man with his ankles in stocks, and a friar inflicting upon him the bastinado to make him confess. He was then sold to a society. Photographs were shown us of the shooting of hundreds of natives by the Spanish soldiers, the prisoners bound and lined up along the beach, the soldiers facing them and it was made a grand fete and holiday. The pictures showed the crowds assembled, and the men lined up just before they were shot. Another showed the friars, after the order had been given to fire, and they were photographed lying dead on the ground. The stories of horrors, the people suffocated in the black hole, the testimony of photography, and that taken from reliable witnesses, disclosed a brutality inflicted upon the Filipinos under the Spanish rule equal to any of the horrors of the French Revolution. Senator Frye will not nor will any other intelligent man advocate our turning these people back to the mercy of the Spanish government."

An American soldier contributes to the paper of that name published at Manila by the Eight Army corps this interesting account of a visit to Aguinaldo at Malolos: "My mind was somewhat confused when I entered the presence of Aguinaldo. I had expected to find an arrogant, egotistical man, dressed in the height of military gorgeousness. Instead, I found a slightly pale and somewhat intellectual personage dressed with a plainness that approached severity, sitting at a cane table which was littered with writing material. My entrance was scarcely noticed. Only Don Felipe, the minister of war, favored me with a bow and smile of recognition. For a half hour I stood, hat in hand before the insurgent chief, awaiting his pleasure. The silence about the chamber was intense, and was only broken by the incessant scratching of the president's pen and the creaking of the cane floor as some uneasy member of the retinue shifted his position. At last, with deliberation, Aguinaldo aside his manuscript, and glancing up to me, said to Don Felipe, 'Who is this man and what is his business?' The minister explained the purpose of my visit, and it seemed to amuse the insurgent chief greatly. 'This is the first time I have ever been interviewed,' he said, 'and I hardly know how to act. You wish to publish in your paper what I have to say. Am I not right?' Replying to my questions, Aguinaldo said: 'My troops are in the very best of condition; well clothed, well fed, well paid, and they have been supplied with new Mauser rifles, which I purchased from a representative of a London house in Hong Kong. The new recruits from the interior are learning to be good soldiers, and their chief, carrying the machete as their chief weapon, finding the rifle far more effective. With a view to disaster I have caused to be caused to among the remaining of the interior, munitions of war; enough to equip an army of 10,000 men. Should my army be destroyed, I could retire to these mountains safe from pursuit, recruit a new army from the friendly tribes, which in one year's time would be ready to assume the offensive in the field.'

The death of General Garcia recalls some interesting stories of him narrated by Captain Faneel, one of his former staff officers. "General Garcia never entirely recovered from the wound inflicted by himself when captured by the Spaniards over twenty years ago," said the captain to the New Orleans Times-Democrat. "He put his pistol under his chin and attempted to blow out his brains, but the weapon was stiff on the trigger, and in pulling it off the barrel was naturally thrown forward a trifle, and the ball ploughed up right behind his nose, coming out of his forehead between the brows. This terrible wound left him some strange souvenirs. At times, suddenly, without warning, he would find himself unable to articulate. This always seemed to puzzle him, and he would glance around with an expression of surprise, which we would pretend not to notice, and to make his feelings. Usually the fit only lasted for a moment, and his mental process certainly never suffered any interruption. Again, especially on hot days, his eyesight would become curiously affected, as he himself described it, the landscape seemed to 'run like water,' and he would be unable to keep his feet. I remember on one occasion, during a consultation, he sprang up suddenly, crying 'The earthquake' in Spanish. He then smiled and tapped his forehead. 'It is only my foolish eyes,' he said. He suffered a great deal, yet he was never cross or irritable. He was the most uniformly courteous and kindly man I ever met, and had none of the ferocious flashes of temper which characterized Gomez. In taste he was decidedly bookish, and always carried a few old volumes in his saddlebags. One was Caesar's Commentaries in Latin."

An examination made by W. E. Curtis of the senate portion of the Congressional Record for the last, or second session of the present congress, which has just appeared in bound form, shows here and there 26,329 inches or about 2,000 feet of printed debate in columns three and one-half inches wide set in motion type. At this rate each of the eighty-nine senators would be entitled to about 40 inches, but six of the senators occupied nearly one-fifth of the entire space, leaving four-fifths for eighty-three of their colleagues. Senator Allen, of Nebraska, is the champion long-distance talker of the United States senate and occupied over 30 per cent. of the entire time that body during the last session. His remarks measured 1,005 inches. Senator Pettigrew occupied 1,057 inches, being the second in verbosity. Senator Teller was third, he occupied 1,221 inches, and Senator Butler was fourth. These four Populists thus consumed nearly 6,000 inches of space, out of a total of 26,329, or one-sixth of the whole. Senator Morgan had the reputation of being the most interminable talker in the senate but it will thus be seen that he has suffered great injustice. Allen, Pettigrew and Teller surpass him in both volume and length. His inches numbered 1,176, that is, only about 40 feet in solid motion type three and one-half inches wide. But he still continues to lead the Democrats. Senator Chandler, of New Hampshire, is the "talky-talky" man on the Republican side. His wit and wisdom cover an area of 811 inches or 2,388 square inches, which would make a large book.

Prothonotary Westbrock, of Pike county, who has been for thirty-five years in a position to know, is worried over the decrease in marriages in that county. In a recent interview he stated that he had been in office continuously since 1855 when the marriage license law went into effect, and had issued the 233 licenses granted in a trifling over 40 per cent. of the total year only eight licenses were taken out, which number were gradually increased until 1895, when the high-water mark was reached. Thirty-six licenses being issued. The decline has been a marked one since then, and this year only twenty-six were registered. He furnished the following interesting statistics in this connection: Licenses granted in 1855, 8; 1856, 13; 1857, 15; 1858, 18; 1859, 25; 1860, 21; 1861, 29; 1862, 25; 1863, 31; 1864, 35; 1865, 36; 1866, 32; 1867, 25; 1868, 28. The majority of the last number were granted during the first six months of the present year. The venerable prothonotary can in no wise definitely account for the falling off in marriages, but advances several opinions, chief among which is the "hard times." The ministers of Mtford do not average a half dozen weddings a year, and are away at a loss to comprehend the ways and wherefores.

The December trial list in Lackawanna county had on it three hundred and thirty-three cases for trial, three of which were for murder. In the same month Forest county had not one. "Lackawanna," remarks the Philadelphia Inquirer, "is a much bigger county than Forest, but if Lackawanna had the same proportion of native citizens as Forest it would be safe to say that the criminal lawyers there would not grow rich quite as rapidly as they now do."

UNCLE SAM'S GREAT BULL-FIGHT.

They said the bulls were wondrous breed, in horn and hoof and brawn. And we held them penned in barbarous cages for trial, three of which were for murder. Behind the bars they stamped and raged for their open fields of sea. Till we hoped wild sport of plunge and toss when came the battle-time.

Is this the hour, O Spanish bulls, ye choose in sunny Spain To burst upon the matadors in chapel at the mass?

But we knew your day was Sunday, and we watched your hot black breath curl behind our blue church-pennant and along the hill-ridge pass.

Pray with one eye toward the cabott!—Some have said 'tis not full-shoot—Have ye not seen the slaughter on the flag-ship—your white ducks, throat and hip! Sudden jingling bells! "Full forward!" bugles cry and leap of screws Answer whipping flags that shouted, "Bulls are at the grating-hip!"

Had we starved the spirit from them? Had they heard our swords were keen? No lashing tail or bloodshot eye, or splendid rush to gore In the open hot arena, but the sinking run from death, the sinking—Till we chased in rage to lose the game, goading them rear and fore.

First the handkerchiefs of the six-pound rapid-fires We thrust into their shoulders, just to make them snort for fight. Then we waved our scurries of scarlet flame, to draw them to the charge. But up the far ring-rippers reeled the frightened beasts in flight.

Close to the torn black flanks we hung, scorning the sidelong blow Of lunging head and wild-aimed horn till we turned them to the stand: Then we held our stocks in pity of the good soldiers, sitting knee-deep in sand. When the espada of the thirteen-inch had thrust them to the sand.

Yet not to kill, our passion, but to fend the trampling hoofs From crushing sunny helpless fellow to pash of slime and blood: And it may be two of the wounded bulls we'll raise to life again. That shall stand guard 'neath the eaves of the Eagle's new-fledged brood. —Ellot White in Boston Journal.

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