

The death of Gen. Mariano G. Vallejo removes from earth a man whose name is prominent in the history of California. He was born in Monterey, in that state, in 1808, his father having come to the province in 1774 with the exploring expedition of Capt. Rivera. He was of Spanish lineage and of a family of soldiers. He entered the Mexican army in 1823, and from 1829 to 1835 was commandant of the presidio at San Francisco. Having received a land grant in Solano county in 1835 and being made director of colonization on the northern frontier, he founded the town of Sonoma and became for many years the leading figure in the province. From 1836 to 1842 he was Commandante General of California, being succeeded by Governor Micheltorena. Prior to the American conquest he advocated annexation to the United States as against the proposition to establish a French or English protectorate. When the Bear Flag war broke out Vallejo was captured and imprisoned for a month at Sutter's fort by order of Lieut. Fremont, but was released by Commodore Stockton. After the conquest he became a citizen of the United States and for many years took an active and liberal part in the affairs of state. He was a member of the constitutional convention and of the first state senate. The town of Vallejo was named in his honor, Benicia receiving his wife's name. General Vallejo died at his home in Sonoma on the 18th of January.

Roosevelt comes to the conclusion that political assessments can not be stopped so long as the men controlling offices desire them to be made. A gentle hint that money is wanted, followed by a continuous series of persecutions of those who did not pay, until in sheer desperation they opened their purses, were the tactics employed in New York, and probably elsewhere. The letter of the civil service law was not broken, and there seems no way of making a law strong enough to stop the practice. Even were a law passed entirely forbidding the making or a contribution to campaign funds by an employee of the government—if, indeed, such a law were constitutional—it could be easily evaded, since a "friend" of the clerk could contribute, and the clerk could be "officially" persecuted until the friend appeared with his financial sop. Roosevelt says that the worst feature of the whole thing is that this blood money generally sticks to the fingers of the blackmailers, instead of going into the campaign fund, for the benefit of which it is nominally levied. Boss Tweed's celebrated question, "What are you going to do about it?" still awaits an answer.

At a meeting of the executive committee of the board of directors of the Northern Pacific, held in New York on the 21st of January, it was decided to

extend the line of that road from Seattle to the international boundary, to connect with a branch line from the Canadian Pacific, with branches to Bellingham bay and other points on the east shore of the sound. An immediate survey was ordered, and the lines, which will aggregate nearly 200 miles, are to be built the coming summer. The importance of this to the country through which the lines will pass, and to the sound ports that will thus be made common terminal points of that great system, is evident, while no less apparent is the advantage that will be gained by the company by thus grasping the traffic of that region in advance of other transcontinental lines.

Miss Willard has outraged the sense of propriety and hospitality of the people of the United States by issuing an address to the Pan-American delegates on the subject of their intemperate habits and the beauties of prohibition. Miss Willard's crankiness is rapidly disrupting the great organization over which she presides, and it will soon have to stand aside to make room for the younger, more vigorous and more sensible "National Crusaders" just organized by the seceders from the older society. There will soon be nothing left of the older organization but the cranks pure and simple.

Some one has said it is better not to speak ill of the devil, for fear of possible consequences. The *Western Newsman* must have had this in mind in issuing its number of December 30, which contained portraits of Dr. Cronin and the men who so foully did him to death; and, though most of those men had been convicted of murder, and were already in the penitentiary, it referred to them as "the defendants." This is carrying caution to the bounds. However, though the title "defendants" may spare their lacerated feelings, it is a misnomer. They had no defense.

The committee appointed by the board of trade of Spokane Falls, to prepare statistics on the subject of a United States assay office, have reported that \$3,583,000 of gold and silver produced in that region would come to the city the first year, were such an office established there. These figures show what a mining center Spokane Falls has become, and are a prophecy of the future when developments have reached a higher state in the numerous tributary districts.

One of the most interesting sights at New York's proposed site of the proposed world's fair is the site of the proposed Grant monument, which the citizens of that city proposed—to Mrs. Grant—to erect, but have not erected by a great sight, or any other of the sites, real or proposed.