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TODAY'S WEATHER.—Occasional rain, with southeast winds.

PORTLAND, TUESDAY, MARCH 6.

THE BLOOD OF A NATION.

President Jordan, of Stanford University, in his Chicago lecture of last Sunday added to the proof already in existence that he is a very original thinker, and, from the standpoint of historical fact, a very ignorant character. His statement that "the present inhabitants of Great Britain were a mere shadow of their forefathers in point of brains and health" is utterly without foundation of fact. The armor worn by the great English warriors of history shows that they were as sturdy, inferior in stature and girth to the average well-nourished Englishman of today. The increase in the average duration of human life during the last fifty years, as shown by the insurance tables, refutes this sweeping statement of President Jordan. The great reduction in the rate of mortality from disease among English soldiers and sailors in Africa and India, compared with 50 years ago, and the vast reduction compared with 150 years ago, is proof of the nonsense of Dr. Jordan's statement about the degeneracy, physical and mental, of England's people. The marches performed by Lord Roberts in the recent campaign in South Africa, equal to the military performances of her past, and her soldiers of today have exhibited more than the endurance and health of the English soldier of fifty years ago. But the most stupid statement made by President Jordan was that war was the best blood of a nation; that the killing of so many youths of a nation during a war was a benefit for the existence of a weak nation, both mentally and physically. He quoted France as an illustration of the deterioration of a great nation, through war, saying:

I think war more than any other agency degrades the vitality of a nation. Take, for instance, the present British war. The best representatives of both countries are now on the field of battle. War not only makes weaker, but prevents the growth of a nation.

Here is a very sweeping, shallow statement. It is doubtless true that such incessant war as was waged against all Europe by France from 1792 to 1815 had an injurious influence upon her people, because after 1807 and the peace of Tilsit the Napoleonic wars were waged in mere wantonness without any justification of even the slightest selfishness; but in a broad sense it is true that no great forward step toward humane progress or enlarged liberty has ever been accomplished save through war. As a rule, the world has ridden further toward liberty and away from absolutism upon a powder cart than upon any other means of transportation.

It cannot be fairly said of France that she has become degenerate in mind or body, for her noblest literature has been produced by the generation whose fathers fought under Napoleon, as did the father of Hugo and the father of Dumas. It cannot be said that the French nation of today is degenerate in warlike hardihood, for the Germans confess that the French soldiers, though commanded by inferior Generals, like Bazaine and MacMahon, fought with all the hereditary valor of the men whose grandfathers won Waterloo. It will not be pretended that France is degenerate in the sense that Spain has degenerated from the Spain of Charles V.

From the days of Alexander the Great, every great forward movement in the evolution of civilization has been won by war. The conquest of Persia, Egypt and India carried the torch of Greek literature and civilization from Asia Minor to the gates of the Hyades. The only great peoples of the ancient world, the only great peoples of the modern world, have been the warlike nations. So long as Rome was a stout soldier, she defied the world, but when Rome became too rich and luxurious to make war save through the bands of mercenary barbarians—that is, when Rome ceased to feel that she had any mission or duty on earth, she "eat, drink and be merry, lest tomorrow we die." Rome's fate prefigured the fate of all nations that either cannot fight or will not fight. In a broad, philosophical sense, love and war have always made the world go round. A world without love is not more inconceivable than a world without war.

Again, as to Great Britain. President Jordan, referring to her, says that "the nation that founds its destiny on war must reach a speedy decay." Here is another shallow remark; for while no nation founds its destiny solely on war, yet wars occur in the history and progress of every nation; and to its wars every nation owes its main opportunity for advancement. It is universal history that war must clear the way, or there will be no getting ahead. Take Great Britain, whose downfall President Jordan so airily predicts. How was her growth made? The actual expansion of Britain began with the wars of Commonwealth, and the great British navy took its rise in them; while the British army dates from the reign of Dutch William. Between the Revolution of 1688 and the battle of Waterloo, Great Britain waged seven great wars, of which the shortest lasted seven years and the longest about twelve. Out of 127 years, 64 years, more than half, were spent in war. Yet that was the period of the

making of the British Empire. President Jordan's lectures and books are valuable, perhaps, in the sense that they establish between philosophy and philosophy. That is, President Jordan is a philosopher rather than a philosopher.

PLUCKING THE "COLONIES."

What are the Republicans of the country going to say in their approaching conventions on the question of commercial intercourse between our country and its new possessions? They can hardly escape the necessity of dealing with the question, for the question is a highly important one. It is simply the question whether there is to be freedom of commercial intercourse between all the people who are under the flag, or whether the "colonies" are estates to be worked for the benefit of monopolists of the "mother country."

It seems to me that we are giving the islands and territories unbounded liberty, in every department save that of trade; for commercial monopoly is the essence of all oppression. Is it to be our policy to fine the people of these new dependencies for the benefit of home traders? The House of Representatives has laid that down as the rule to be followed. If it be pursued and persisted in, it will raise momentous issues. It is no answer to say that the bill passed by the House claims very little. What it does claim is unjust, and the judgment of the country will so hold it. The policy places the islands, not in the position of colonial or outlying territories of the United States, but in that of conquered states or plantations. It cuts off the benefit to be derived from a connection which should be mutual; and in effect it proclaims the essentially barbaric doctrine that one community should be treated as the property of another and the fruits of its industry confiscated, by some absolute right, whether of conquest or otherwise.

This doctrine cannot hold. It is so similar to the claims against which our ancestors rebelled, and asserted and established our National Independence, that it is odious to the American people from history and tradition, from sentiment and conviction. Nothing can commend such a policy to the people of the United States. The passage of this bill by the House is proof that protected monopolies have been fed till their greed is insatiable, and till they have come to regard robbery through tariffs as their inalienable right. If the Republican party would be delivered from the dangers that threaten from this source, it should beseech the Senate to reject the bill, and stand by the original recommendation of the House. It is amazing that so many Republican members, right in the beginning, should have allowed themselves to be overborne, and whipped into this scheme.

Republicans of Indiana, it is said, intend in the Congressional conventions this week to make an effort to set their right on this subject. It would be excellent to see them set an example to the Republicans of the country; for it is very much needed.

A NEW IDEA OF "SURRENDER."

When a man has to make a long and powerful oration on a question of the hour, he may, unless his position is very sound, have to use some material that is not of the very best. So Mr. Bourke Cockran, in arraignment English civilization as a synonym of oppression and tyranny, and apostrophizing the English oligarchy as an enemy of the Republic, said that liberty cannot be too particular about his choice of weapons. He is compelled to go on record with this sort of thing:

It is said again that the people of this country must remain neutral. This is as it should be. But I say that the people of this country were never before in such a position. There was a question between England and the United States regarding the Alaska boundary. There was a claim pending. I do say that at that time the United States Administration had gone on enforcing that claim against the people of Alaska. The troops would have had abundant business at home.

In this passage Mr. Cockran puts before the world a new kind of surrender. He will have difficulty, we suspect, in getting for his idea of surrender any considerable number of men. It is true that we had a claim as to the Alaska boundary. Our claim was that the land we were in possession of and had been in possession of for many years, including Lynn canal, was ours. It is a position we still hold. We occupy the land. We have not offered, so far as appears, to get out of it.

What were we to do? Great Britain may have had a counter-claim of some sort, but what it was nobody knows. None was ever formulated. And if one had been formulated, was it our business to offer to force Great Britain to formulate her counter-claim and fight for it?

There was no alliance with Great Britain, says Mr. Cockran, sneeringly. What were we to do? Great Britain stands his ground and the other fellow goes off about his business. It is, according to Mr. Cockran, a case of surrender. If he is right, the world has been using a word ill-advisedly for several hundred years.

One phase of parental irresponsibility had lurid illustration in the terrible case of the three children of Washington, Saturday evening, as reported in a dispatch from Olympia. Three children, of the respective ages of 5, 7 and 9 years, were left at night in charge of another child of 12, while the parents "went to a dance." The house caught fire, presumably from the explosion of an ill-tight heating stove in the lower room, and in spite of the heroic efforts of the little girl, to whom parental duties were delegated while the father and mother were away "enjoying themselves," the three infants perished in the flames and the little girl was herself seriously burned before making her escape from the second-story window. It is, of course, needless to add that these delicate parents are sorry; indeed, they are no doubt "distraught with grief." Nothing comes easier than censure, when disaster follows dereliction of duty. The "I told you so" or "You might have known it" falls easily from the lips, even of those who think but lightly along lines of prudence and responsibility, before penalty has overtaken carelessness. It is, however, in no capricious spirit that The Oregonian points to this incident as an always possible result of leaving young children alone until far in the night in a house in which, of necessity, there is fire. It is gratifying to believe that parental irresponsibility seldom takes this form, though occasion-

ally a shocking disaster similar to the one above reported indicates that the risk is taken too frequently that the very commonest instinct of parental duty justifies. The risk in such a case is one to which parents have no right to subject their children, involving as it does in lonely country places possibilities of harm even greater than that of perishing in flames of their own inconsiderate kindling.

PROOF OF THE PUDDING.

An honest man with an open mind ought to attach some measure of weight to the experience of Japan with the gold standard. In its abandonment of silver for gold, the Flowering Kingdom had opportune dealing singular felicity. It had no historic crime of '73 to be expiated. It was free to act without regard to the "dollar of our daddies," the divine ratio of 16 to 1, the sacred money of the Constitution, the crown of thorns and cross of gold, the money of ultimate redemption, the per capita, and the ancient fetish-worship of "bimetallism." All that Japan had to do, therefore, was to decide between silver and gold on their merits and act accordingly. She had tried silver, and didn't like it. So she determined to try gold. Now she has experience enough to form a conclusion of their comparative merits.

Not long ago The Oregonian discussed at some length a report concerning the gold standard in Japan recently made by S. Uchida, the Japanese Consul at New York City. Since then a complete copy of the report has come to hand, and in it we find these assertions:

Prices have ceased to fluctuate with the market as they did in former times. The elimination of that risk from business calculations is resulting in a sound development of our industries and commerce. This fact is clearly shown by the enormous increase within the last two years of the clearing of the associated banks in Tokyo and Osaka, and two great centers of business activity in the country in the favorable condition of our foreign trade; the stability of prices for agricultural products and the wages of labor; the increase of the value of the Japanese money used for payment is at par with that in use by the nations enjoying the highest economic development.

Japan now offers a new type of which invites capital on the same monetary terms as to the standard of value for all payments, present and deferred, as are offered by these countries that are competing for the commercial supremacy of the world. All barriers to foreign investments in Japan have been removed, uncertainties regarding the stability of the monetary system have been eliminated, and Japan has arisen from an inferior silver-using nation to equal rank with the great nations of the world.

The government has been saved from the losses it formerly sustained from a fall in silver, on foreign payments, and from the depreciation of its bonds as a result of its demand for a decreasing interest rate. Its credit is no longer so firmly established as it was when it gave a firm basis for confidence in private industries and commerce.

These comparisons of conditions under the silver standard with conditions under the gold standard have so familiar a sound that some of our Populist friends will be tempted to conclude the Japanese Government has been appropriating editorials from The Oregonian. And they are in truth only restatements of the elementary facts about money, which have been set out in these columns for twenty years. Perhaps there is little use in recalling them now, except for the fact that Colonel Bryan insists that the silver question is as much alive as ever, and still offers to lead his country boldly into the silver slough from which Japan has laboriously and proudly extricated itself.

ABLE INCOME TAXES POSSIBLE?

If an income tax is perfectly uniform, it will fall on rich and poor alike. Then will the masses endure it? If it falls on the rich or well-to-do alone, so that the poor escape, it contrasts the latter at least, with the Constitution. The will the courts sustain it? This is the dilemma the problem of an income tax presents in the United States.

South Carolina has tried an income tax and found it unconstitutional. Adjudication was had, it is true, in an unusual way, for the Legislature repealed the law in response to popular disaffection, which, in the end, would have been manifested by the Supreme Court decision. The court would have found on investigation that the law was unjust and a species of class legislation. The people found it out for themselves and acted on it. The statute in question was passed in January, 1897, went into effect January 1, 1898, and has just been repealed. It provided for a tax to be levied upon the gross profits and income of every citizen of the state, whether it was derived from rents, interest, dividends or salaries, or from any profession or trade, or from any other source. Up to this point the law was general. But in fixing the tax rate it ignored all incomes below \$2000 and made those above this figure liable for the following percentages:

Over \$2,000 and up to \$3,000, 14 per cent
Over \$3,000 and up to \$5,000, 16 per cent
Over \$5,000 and up to \$10,000, 18 per cent
Over \$10,000 and up to \$20,000, 20 per cent
Over \$20,000, 22 per cent

Prima facie, this is not uniform taxation, but an ingeniously devised scale of discriminations, of which the most glaring, perhaps, is the escape of all incomes below \$2000. If the people had taken the law very seriously, trouble might have resulted. But they didn't. They met the crisis in a truly Southern spirit of independence. That is, they ignored the law. The total receipts under it for the entire State of South Carolina in the year 1898 are said to have been only slightly over \$7000. More than one-half of this was paid in Charleston. Only nineteen counties out of forty in the state made any return whatever, and of these, half a dozen others turned in less than \$50. When its failure as a revenue measure became as apparent as its injustice to the taxpayer, the graded income-tax of South Carolina was promptly repealed.

This episode suggests the interesting inquiry how Congress can ever expect to enact a Federal income-tax that will stand the test of constitutionality. If it is uniform, the poor won't stand it, and if it is not uniform, the rich won't stand it. Yet nothing is more certain than that, with the increase of our expenses and the decline of revenue from imports, some attempt in the direction of the income-tax will soon have to be attempted. But it will make life a burden for the party that undertakes it.

The department store law enacted nearly a year ago by the Missouri Legislature was carefully drawn, but despite the caution of its framers, it has been declared unconstitutional by the

highest court in the state. The purpose of the law was unquestionably to destroy the department store system. Merchandise, under that law, was divided into seventy-three classes, and it was provided that no person or corporation should sell at retail more than one of the seventy-three classes without a special license. The law was limited in its application to cities of 50,000, and the license fees ranged from \$300 to \$500 on each class of merchandise. A case was made up and taken on appeal to the Missouri Supreme Court. The lawyers for the state maintained that the act was of a police character, but the court holds that the purpose of the law is not regulation, but restriction. In its decision the court says: "In order to entertain legislation of the character of the act in question, the court must be able to see that its object to some degree tends toward the prevention of some offense or manifest evil, or has for its aim the preservation of the public health, morals, safety or welfare. If no such object is discernible but the mere guise and masquerade of public control, under the name of an act to regulate business and trade, the court will strike down the act as unwarranted. Mere legislative assumption of the right to direct and indicate the channel and the course into which the private energies of the citizen shall flow, or the attempt to abridge or hamper his right to pursue any lawful calling, is not a proper subject for legislative action, and may be deemed unconstitutional."

There is one way in which the opposition of the Senate to election of Senators by popular vote may be circumvented, and a joint committee of the Pennsylvania Legislature is at work upon the project. The committee provides, not only for initiative in constitutional amendment by Congress, but also for initiative by the state Legislatures themselves. Upon application of the Legislatures of two-thirds of the states Congress is empowered to call a convention to propose amendments. The Pennsylvania plan, of course, is to interest the state Legislatures in the project. The project has passed resolutions in favor of holding a convention and has sent them to the Secretaries of State in those states where the Legislatures are now in session, namely, New York, New Jersey, Ohio, Massachusetts, Tennessee, Maryland, Iowa, Kentucky and Mississippi. It is not necessary to suppose that Congress will be obliged to accept formal application of two-thirds of the states. But the agitation the Pennsylvania movement is able to create throughout the country may very easily induce Congress to act of its own accord. The time has arrived when the people can be trusted to elect their Senators, and the opposition of Senators to the amendment can never be elected by popular vote should no longer be allowed to defer or defeat this much-needed reform.

The activities of the boy thief who took nine of the ten bicycles that were stolen in Spokane in February are more wonderful than his evident adaptation to the profession that he chose. It is one of the principles—perhaps it may be said one of the "fads"—of modern pedagogy that the best school should be left to follow his own bent in the choice of a vocation. The presumption is that he will expel in the vocation that suits his inclination, whereas in work that "goes against the grain" he will always be a plodder, if, indeed, he will not abandon it for the life of the street. The question of the boy thief who stole the Spokane lad chose his vocation according to a just estimate of his own abilities, since he could scarcely have pursued another with such signal success. The rule, however, proved almost too much in his case, as it showed that even a boy with decided tendencies, backed by a wonderful activity, may be surprised in the choice of a calling with benefit to himself and to the community.

There seems to be some mistake about the report that Emperor William sent a dispatch to his royal grandmother, of England, congratulating her upon the success of her soldiers in South Africa. At least, nothing is known of the dispatch. The English Embassy in Berlin, nor in court circles at the capital. The inference, therefore, is that the news romancer, being fully convinced that this was the generous thing for the Emperor to do, proceeded to make His Majesty do it without consulting his imperial pleasure in the matter.

The labored arguments of one Ma-goon, which, being used freely, it is believed by Senator McMillan, in his speeches on the Puerto Rican bill, that the Constitution does not apply to acquisitions until extended by specific acts of Congress, are without any bearing whatever on the question in hand. The issue is whether Congress, having the power, shall deal justly and lovingly, or play the oppressor and the oppressor.

There is no doubt that the United States is a great power, and it is not set right, grievous will be the penalty. Spooner's bill putting the affairs of the Philippines in the hands of the President is a good commentary on the Puerto Rican bill. If the President had gone along with his programme in Puerto Rico, we should have seen spared this demonstration that Congress is unfit to deal with the colonies.

Leap Year Omitted.
Chicago Tribune.
Though 1900 is divisible by four it is no leap year. The ladies of the present generation, who are so fond of the idea that they are deprived of the precious privileges of leap year for an interval of eight years. The fortunate persons born on February 29 may be glad to say according as they happen to desire birthdays or not. All may be comforted, however, by the assurance that this state of affairs is not a new one, but has existed for two centuries. It has occurred only twice before since Pope Gregory XIII instituted the new style calendar, in 1582. The necessary leap year, which, in the same period, I traveled 280 miles. The last 400 miles was through Sau-chuan, the objective of the British Burma & Upper Yang-tze Railway.

On both sides of the river, which at Chung-king I found to be three-quarters of a mile wide at low water, the country was cultivated like a garden. I saw thousands and thousands of commodious homesteads surrounded by clumps of bamboo and orange trees, with patches of ground of the richest alluvial soil, cultivated without a weed and producing two and three crops of opium, tobacco, indigo, sugar cane, etc. It was a new, indeed, whom people had never heard of the war with Japan, and who believed that China had ever been beaten by that country. It was a land of peace, plenty and civilization. I walked scores of miles through farms, villages and towns, and everywhere I was treated with courtesy and civility.

"At every place we touched the population turned out en masse to see our little puffing launch forging its way up against the current, this being only the second time that this part of the river had been so navigated. I afterward came down the rapids in the launch—it was the first time they had been shot by a steamer—accomplishing the journey of 457 miles from Chung-king to I-Chang in 11 hours of steaming. Over any other river the little craft was practically buried in the seething rapids. The possibilities of trade in this region are so vast that they can scarcely be estimated. On the Upper Yang-tze alone there are 5000 trading junks, each manned by some 100 men, making a total of 500,000 persons engaged in the carrying trade—far more men of fine physique."

It is difficult for a sane man to see any reason for jubilation on the part of the Republicans. And if Mr. Henderson, and the other champions of the policy of taxation, are to be believed, the people feel on the subject, they would not show much disposition to join in a hallooing chorus. There is not one good argument in favor of the bill. On the contrary, it is the product of the worst influences and tendencies of the Republican party. There is a pretense that it is for the benefit of the Puerto Ricans, but on that point we should think that the Puerto Ricans themselves were the best judges. And the only voices that have come from the island have been eloquent in behalf of free trade. The American Governor of Puerto Rico, General Davis, sent to the Senate yesterday a letter, enclosing five petitions asking for free trade, signed by several hundred tobacco merchants, growers and manufacturers. General Davis says:

In my frequent reports to the department, I have very fully stated the gravity of the industrial situation. I cannot, in any words as my command, overstate the urgency and gravity of the situation. The only remedy for the industrial condition I can suggest is the opening of markets for accumulated surplus production, and the establishment of such trade conditions by Congressional legislation as will give confidence to investors and encourage the development of the natural resources of the island. The policy must continue, and the poor and helpless, in increasing numbers, must be fed, or they will starve for want of bread.

Yet Mr. Cannon says that the pending bill has been "misunderstood," and that it is intended "for the immediate relief of the Puerto Ricans by providing them with the means of raising \$1,000,000 annually in an emergency." Mr. Cannon is entirely mistaken. The bill is not mis-understood. It is understood only too well. The people who are back of it, and if the men at Washington had the slightest appreciation of the strength of public sentiment against the bill, they would not think of passing it. The people of Washington, Minnesota, does not put the case too strongly when he says:

PREMATURE REJOICING.

The Danger That Lies in the Puerto Rican Bill.
Indianapolis News.

Speaker Henderson is a very enthusiastic and also a very easily satisfied individual. At the close of the Republican conference last night on the Puerto Rican tariff bill, Mr. Henderson said:

This bill should pass. I say to you tonight, put on your armor, and sing glory halloo!

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BIG BRITISH SUBSIDIES.

Five Marine Mail Lines of First-Rate Importance.
J. W. Root in March Atlantic.

There are five of the great mail subsidies which may be classed as of first-rate importance, namely, to the United States, India and the Far East, Australia, the Pacific, India and the Far East, and the last named is a colonial contract and beyond the control of the British Government, the governments of South Africa having recently concluded a contract for its renewal. There is another important service, namely, with Canada, for which \$200,000 per annum is paid; but this has been in the melting pot so often that it is hard to say whether it is a fact that it has emerged in its final shape—that it is difficult to discuss, particularly as it includes the overland service via Vancouver to China, Japan and Australia. There are one or two smaller contracts, like those for West Africa and South America, the latter being regulated strictly by weight of matter carried. Of the five we are to deal with, provision has been made for the current year as follows:

\$120,000 for the United States, divided between the Canadian and White Star lines, outward to New York only.
\$250,000 for India, Straits Settlements, Ceylon, China and Japan, paid to the Peninsular & Oriental Company, outward and homeward.
\$170,000 for Australia, divided between the P. & O. and Orient companies, out and home.
\$100,000 for the West Indies to the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, out and home.
\$100,000 for South Africa, divided between the Union-Castle Mail line, out and home. After September, 1900, this will be increased, under the new contract, to \$125,000.

Before discussing the details of these, it will be well to add that there is further annual payment made to four companies, amounting to \$500,000, for the right to call upon certain steamers as armed vessels in the event of hostilities between Great Britain and a foreign power. This is divided between four companies, namely, the Cunard, White Star and the Peninsular & Oriental, named in the preceding list, and the Canadian Pacific Railway for its Pacific mail steamers, the largest amount any one of them receives being \$150,000 for the total, 10 or 11 of the finest and quickest steamers in the world can at very short notice be added to the British navy. A good deal of comment has been made upon the fact that none of them were at first chartered for the conveyance of troops to South Africa, but it must be borne in mind that the subsidy is paid for retention for fighting purposes, and not as transports.

NEVER HEARD OF THE WAR.

Chinese Who Refuse to Believe That Japan Defeated Them.
The ignorance in which the Chinese Government keeps its people, in respect to its international relations, is demonstrated by a letter written by John Walton, a member of the British Parliament, who has just returned to London from a tour in China, Japan, Korea, Indo-China and India.

Mr. Walton says that one of the most densely populated provinces of the Celestian Empire the war with Japan has not been heard of, and the inhabitants refuse to believe that their country has ever been defeated. Mr. Walton's letter, in part, is as follows:

"I traveled 1600 miles up the Yang-tze to Chung-king. For the last 1000 miles I went up by steamer, and then by Chinese horseback up the rapids and gorges of the Yang-tze, only accomplishing 70 miles in nine days. Then I went up the river by the Yang-tze, which, in the same period, I traveled 280 miles. The last 400 miles was through Sau-chuan, the objective of the British Burma & Upper Yang-tze Railway.

On both sides of the river, which at Chung-king I found to be three-quarters of a mile wide at low water, the country was cultivated like a garden. I saw thousands and thousands of commodious homesteads surrounded by clumps of bamboo and orange trees, with patches of ground of the richest alluvial soil, cultivated without a weed and producing two and three crops of opium, tobacco, indigo, sugar cane, etc. It was a new, indeed, whom people had never heard of the war with Japan, and who believed that China had ever been beaten by that country. It was a land of peace, plenty and civilization. I walked scores of miles through farms, villages and towns, and everywhere I was treated with courtesy and civility.

"At every place we touched the population turned out en masse to see our little puffing launch forging its way up against the current, this being only the second time that this part of the river had been so navigated. I afterward came down the rapids in the launch—it was the first time they had been shot by a steamer—accomplishing the journey of 457 miles from Chung-king to I-Chang in 11 hours of steaming. Over any other river the little craft was practically buried in the seething rapids. The possibilities of trade in this region are so vast that they can scarcely be estimated. On the Upper Yang-tze alone there are 5000 trading junks, each manned by some 100 men, making a total of 500,000 persons engaged in the carrying trade—far more men of fine physique."

RIGHT FOR ONCE.

Colonel Bryan Correctly Sides Up the International Fraud.
New York Times.

Mr. Bryan cannot talk all the time without now and then speaking words of evidence and substance. We agree with two propositions stated in the following reply of the Democratic and Populist chief in answer to the question whether the silver standard is dying out. No, it is not dying out, and the editors who continue to say that it is better. The action of the Republican party in amending the currency bill is a last resort, as to the promise of international bimetallism, is a confession that the gold standard is not satisfactory, and no Republican editor can explain that statement except by acknowledging that it is an attempt to trust fraud upon the American people.

The first assertion must be taken substantially. It is right to say that Mr. Bryan is the silver sentiment has pretty much got through dying out. It is a memory, the reminiscence of a habit or state of mind, which has been a part of the life of action. But in mind and action, Bryan the sentimentalist. There it is, deathless. It fills him and inspires him far more than the cause of anti-imperialism, for which he does only perfunctory lip service, and opposition to trusts, which he knows to be a practical question beyond the powers of understanding.

But he never in his life said a truer thing than that the bimetallism amendment to the Senate currency bill was an "attempt to thrust fraud upon the American people." It is quite impossible to fool Bryan as to silver frauds. He is an expert.

We shrink from a contemplation of the people who will be left upon the earth, the sanguine anti-imperialists of William McKinley who had concluded that the silver question was "a back number" by the silver standard, which has been a part of the life of action. But in mind and action, Bryan the sentimentalist. There it is, deathless. It fills him and inspires him far more than the cause of anti-imperialism, for which he does only perfunctory lip service, and opposition to trusts, which he knows to be a practical question beyond the powers of understanding.

Let it suffice that no state expects to be great that is not awake upon any just occasion of arming. No body can be peaceful. We warn the Republicans, and all body not politic, and, certainly, to a kingdom or state, a just and honorable war is the true exercise. . . .

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French Degeneration.

George McLean Harper in March Atlantic.
In one great historical movement, however, France has not occupied as prominent a place as Germany and England, namely, in the religious and moral reformations which became widespread in the 15th century, and is still operative in all Teutonic countries. Every attempt to establish generally the reformed principles in France has been crushed by the arm of despotism, or thwarted by the folly and selfishness of Protestant nobles, and the bluntness of the middle classes. To the failure of France to grasp her opportunities in this respect, the French must attribute a decadence, moral and physical, which is becoming precipitate, and which bids fair to reduce her to a secondary rank among nations.

The Best Odds.

Chicago Post.
"Some professor says that only 10 per cent of the marriages are happy ones." "Well, Little's the worst you can get," "even in that case let us remember that the odds on marital happiness are about 10 per cent better than those on a happy spinsterhood."

His Suit Suits.
Richmond Dispatch.
Dasher—Why do you wear such awfully loud clothes, old chap?
Master—So that I can't