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TODAY'S WEATHER.—Showers; warmer; westerly winds.

PORTLAND, SATURDAY, SEPT. 8.

WILLIAM I, AMERICAE IMPERATOR.

Nowhere does the dread presence of American imperialism reveal itself more unmistakably than in the character of its personal embodiment, William I, William the Conqueror of subject races, William the Enslaver of the American people, William the Destroyer of republican institutions, William the Autocrat of his Cabinet, William the Tyrant who forces his iron will and firm intellectual convictions upon all minds and hearts.

This our despot has come up through strange vicissitudes. He was not always thus. He used to be so good-natured as to go on other men's notes and spend his money as fast as he made it. He used to worship the protective tariff with a naive and open sincerity of heart. Knowing nothing of the money question in 1891, he complaisantly fell in with party emergency and denounced Cleveland for betraying silver. When the St. Louis convention of 1896 came on he palpitated between the uncompromising gold men and the simple-hearted "bimetallists." When the Paris treaty was under negotiation he hesitated again, and only could make up his mind after swinging around the circle and hearing applause for expansion sentiments. When the Maine was blown up he was for peace till Congress declared war. When Alger grew distasteful he had to get Hobart to tell Griggs to tell Alger to resign. When Porto Rico came up he was strong for free trade till Congress came out for a 15 per cent duty, and then he was for anything Congress was for. He was for civil service reform, but he couldn't resist the Ohio appeal to encroach on the classified list. He let Gage demand and Dawes denounce banking reform simultaneously. How firmly he resisted applications for appointment of favored sons and sons-in-law to the volunteer Army! How loudly he stamped his imperial foot for speedy justice in the Carter case! How like flint he sets his face against Senators clamoring for recognition of their pets with postoffices and collectorships! How he converted Gage to the gold standard and imposed his ideas of diplomacy on Hay! How he railroaded his platform through at Philadelphia and resisted the rural demand for Roosevelt for Vice-President! How he disciplines Platt and Quay and rules Mark Hanna with a rod of iron!

Taken by and large, this is certainly one of the most relentless-willed and stony-hearted unlimited monarchs known to history. No wonder that gentle, shrinking souls like Grover Cleveland and Tom Reed start back in dismay at the spectacle of his autocratic power. No wonder that the imperialistic dominion of William I at once arrests the attention and arouses the indignation of every man with wheels in his head.

UNCLE SAM'S LOAN OFFICE.

Another indication of the financial poverty and distress to which the crime of '73 and the accursed gold standard have reduced the United States is afforded in the application of Sweden to American capital for an industrial loan of $10,000,000. Sweden evidently has sense enough, when she wants anything, to go where it is to be had.

Applications to the United States for loans are decidedly the fashion in international circles. A short time ago Montreal borrowed $3,000,000 of us. Then Mexico offered an issue of $35,000,000, running for thirty years, with interest at 5 per cent. This was taken by a syndicate. Last May it was reported that Russia had borrowed $10,000,000 at 4 per cent from insurance companies, but this has been denied. Then Great Britain placed about $28,000,000 of its $50,000,000 loan at 3 per cent in the United States. As the bonds were sold at 98 and mature in three years, the rate was really almost 4 per cent, and American capitalists were willing to take the whole loan. Sweden intends to use the $10,000,000 it expects to secure for the building of railroads and other remunerative properties under the control of the government. Its bonds are classed as of unquestioned security. The present issue is to be offered at 98. For ten years the bonds are to bear 4 per cent, and for the succeeding decade 3½ per cent interest.

Within eighteen months the United States, if Sweden's loan is floated here, will have lent foreign nations in the neighborhood of $70,000,000, in addition to the $100,000,000 advanced to our home Government on account of the war with Spain. The transactions discover a tremendous accumulation of capital here which is anxious to get work to do at very small wages. The Treasury holds nearly $220,000,000 in gold. Our National debt is being refunded at 2 per cent. Five years ago our 2 per cent bonds ruled at 95 and 96; now they bring 103½.

The gold standard establishes confidence and promotes production and investment. But it plays the deuce with interest rates. Money in large volume can't earn over 2 per cent a year in desirable long investments with absolutely safe security. The advantage is with all kinds of productive enterprise, which are thus enabled to do business on borrowed capital without great outlay for interest. Employment is provided on every hand. Yet it is far better for capital to have a small but safe return than high nominal rates, with doubts of recovery and occasional ruinous losses. The feverish activity and risky speculation that would ensue upon debased currency, silver or paper, would be damaging to business, and also bad for the moral life of the people. Stability and honesty make for the best results in the long run, in finance as in character. The gold standard will make us a creditor Nation and give us cheap capital for every legitimate enterprise.

GOOD MEN FOR BRYAN.

Nothing has given to this apathetic campaign more interest and piquancy than the declarations made for Bryan by ex-Secretary of State Olney and ex-Postmaster-General Wilson. They are two of the best men in American public life. Both are thinkers, both are brave, both are incorruptible. The dashing boy orator and prestidigitator of paramount issues has never received a more flattering compliment than this. Let us hope his conceit is not too exalted to forbid his proper appreciation of the honor. In point of statesmenship he is not worthy to stoop down and unloose the latchet of their shoes, and the bitterest day of their lives would be the one when they should see Bryanism enthroned in the American Nation, and reflect that upon their heads rested a heavy load of responsibility.

Olney's action and Wilson's result from three causes. The first is McKinley and his crowd. These two men are as far as possible removed from the McKinley type of politician. Olney's record as Secretary of State and Wilson's strenuous efforts for his tariff bill, which was perfidiously betrayed in spite of all that Cleveland and Wilson and Bryan could do by a Senatorial conspiracy, show the kind of men they are. They are fighters. They take a side and they stand by it. They know what they want, and they propose to have it. Caution, timidity, wavering, complaisance, exemplified in President McKinley, they have none of; they have no patience with, they want to see rebuked.

The second reason why Olney and Wilson go for Bryan is that they are men of speculative rather than of practical minds. You can divide the Gold Democrats who elected McKinley into two classes—the business men and the professional men. The business men will vote for McKinley again, and they will be joined by many thousands of Democratic business men who voted for Bryan before; who tolerated silverism and socialism as a craze they hoped was temporary, but cannot abide it in the deliberate and permanent form it has now assumed. The Democrats who have intimate connection with large affairs, the Democrats who as business men have vital concern either as debtor or creditor in the conservation of credit, and who will vote for Bryan this year, are very few. Every day prominent Democratic men of affairs who voted for Bryan in 1896 come out for McKinley in 1900. To them the ruinous practical effects of Bryan's election in 1900 appeal with overwhelming force.

But with the professional or scholastic mind it is not so. Every day lawyers like Olney, teachers like Wilson, students like Atkinson and Schurz, who voted for McKinley in 1896 come out for Bryan in 1900. It is enough for them that the fallacy of free coinage was set aside in 1896. The disaster to business involved in Bryan's election in 1900 appeals to them with little force, compared with the theoretical desirability of rebuking McKinleyism. Mental processes are to them all-important. Business can wait, or, if need be, suffer.

There is a third reason why spirited Democrats who voted for McKinley in 1896 want to beat him in 1900. It springs not out of the character of McKinleyism, but from some very definite, specific things that the Administration has done. The Gold Democrats elected McKinley—what did they get? Elected on the money issue, he called Congress together hurriedly in special session to hurl in their faces a high tariff. For months in all kinds of letters and messages he refused to mention the gold standard in specific terms. The civil service system was openly assailed and public sentiment was outraged in the appointment everywhere of unworthy men to office at the behest of party machines. Here in Oregon, for example, the Gold Democrats had the promise that the Collector of Customs, a Gold Democrat, should be retained, but when the machine got ready to ask for his place for one of their ringleaders, out he went instanter.

These are the reasons why men who dwell on sentiments without reference to practical affairs are moved to defeat McKinley. The impulse does them credit, but discretion demands its subordination to the pressing exigencies of action. Not the election of McKinley, but the defeat of Bryan, is the country's need this time, and the need that the practically minded voters will have to supply. Anyhow, nobody votes for President; and the Republican electoral tickets contain the names of some very tolerable men.

LESSONS FROM VERMONT.

Returns from the Vermont State election show plainly that the Republican vote is up to the high-water mark of 1888, while the Democratic vote is about 2500 short of the Democratic vote of that year. The Republicans polled their full party vote for the reason that there was a bitter contest over the composition of the Legislature, which will elect a successor to the late Senator Justin S. Morrill, who died in December, 1898. The Governor of Vermont filled the vacancy by the appointment of Jonathan Ross, Chief Justice of the State Supreme Court, but the Legislature which has just been selected will chose in October next a Senator to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Morrill, which ends March 4, 1903, and probably also a Senator for the full term of six years from March 4, 1903.

The leading candidates for the Senatorship were General William W. Grout, who has served eighteen years in the lower house of Congress, and ex-Governor William P. Dillingham. The town representatives were elected upon this issue of "Grout or Dillingham for United States Senator," and, of course, this local contest brought out a full party vote.

The fact that the Democrats did not poll within 2500 of their full party vote indicates that they were apathetic or that a number of Gold Democrats still refuse to return to the Bryan camp. It is clearly evident that the cause of Bryan has gained no Republican votes in Vermont on the issue of "imperialism," and it is equally clear that all the Gold Democrats in Vermont are not yet back in the regular party camp, for the Democratic vote is about 2500 short of the Democratic vote for 1888, and about 2300 short of the vote for 1890. The Democratic vote in Vermont is easily 20,000 when its full strength is polled. It is 3000 short of its full strength this year, while the Republicans have polled their full party strength.

There is no comfort for Bryan in the returns from Vermont. He has gained no Republican votes, and at least half of the Gold Democrats of 1896 still decline to return to the party camp.

LIGHT ON CHINA.

A short article in the September Century by R. Van Bergen contains timely observations on the China affair. It has the merit of making more tangible several indefinite ideas which a reader may get from press reports. The writer calls the disturbance not an insurrection, nor the act of an irresponsible, lawless set, but a revolution, a general movement in which all the Chinese are involved.

The peaceful Boxer is not a bloodthirsty devil. He is a member of a society whose purposes are largely similar to those of our labor unions. The members associate for mutual advantage, and are employed in legitimate pursuits by all classes of people. As watchmen and guards they find their chief uses, in which functions they are always faithful to their trust. Even the government frequently avails itself of their services. But the innovations of foreigners have diminished their employment. When they were encouraged in a semi-official way to make a demonstration against the foreigners, the movement got beyond the control of the instigators, with the results we know.

The remote cause of the uprising and the one which prompted the Boxers was the operation of the Shanghai-Kwan-Tien-Tsin-Pekin Railway. This threw out of employment thousands of donkey-drivers, carters, boatmen, innkeepers, etc., and greatly lessened also the emoluments of the Boxers. But the Boxers could not have started the revolution unless the people had been alarmed at the acquisitions of Chinese territory by other nations. The Germans in Shan Tung were exceedingly supercilious, and their conduct exasperated the Chinese. Simultaneous with this disturbance, which was favorable to Russian designs on China, Russia by a lucky coincidence had made proposals to the Empress to take the country under its protection. The Czar did this to thwart the aims of Japan. That country is ambitious to emulate in the Orient the position of England in Europe. But Russia menaces this design. Some years ago Japan endeavored to form a coalition with Great Britain against Russia, but the English were wary to perceive that the Mikado's object was self-advancement and his secret purpose was "Asia for the Asiatics." His only alternative was to make an alliance with China. He almost succeeded in accomplishing this, but Russia saw through the veil and notified the Empress that an act of the kind would be considered unfriendly. Then the Czar offered his protection, which happened at the time of the Boxer outbreak.

In this competition between the two nations of the East the object of Russia is that of the empire's founder—is universal or world-monarchy. Every Czar and Czarina has shared this purpose. That of Japan is a federation of Oriental nations, with herself at the head. Both are striving for predominance in China. The success of either would portend danger, in the one case to the liberty and progress of the world, in the other to the Caucasian race.

Late news from China tends to corroborate the version of this article. It was stated in the reports a few days ago that the cause of the anti-foreign demonstration ordered by the Empress last June was a forged ultimatum from the powers. But the Empress did not reckon far enough, and the disorder passed beyond a demonstration into a revolution.

WHAT IS A GOOD CHANCE?

Bryan and Croker in public speech both assert that young men have little or no chance in these days. Bryan, in his impudence or ignorance, spoke of the "standing Army" and asked his audience "what chance a poor man's son had to become an officer." The best answer to this stupid assertion is to turn to the Army or Navy list. The law is such that rich men's sons cannot be favored, and without exception in the history of this country every prominent officer in the Army or Navy was a child of the common people. General Miles was a clerk in a Boston store when he enlisted in a volunteer regiment in 1861. Admiral Dewey's father was a country doctor in a Vermont town of 3000 inhabitants. Secretary Root was the son of a professor in a small "fresh-water" college. President McKinley taught school and enlisted as a private soldier. The late Vice-President Hobart taught school for a living. Colonel Charles A. Woodruff, United States Army, was the son of a New England farmer. General Chaffee, who commands our forces in China, enlisted in the regular Army as a private soldier, and served two years in the ranks before he obtained a commission as Second Lieutenant. The late Colonel E. H. Liscum, who fell at the head of the Ninth United States Infantry in China, was a poor boy who earned his own way in the world up to the day when he enlisted as a private soldier in the Army. Colonels McGregor, Carr, Hayes, Baldwin, Whiteside, Harbach, Comba, Doughtery, Coolidge, Bisbee, Freeman—all served several years in the ranks of the regular Army and earned their first commission by merit. Brigadier-Generals Gilbert S. Carpenter and D. W. Burke, of the retired list of the Army, both entered the regular Army as enlisted men and won their first commission through meritorious service in the ranks.

It is just as true of the eminent West Point graduates as of the Army officers appointed from civil life. They were all poor boys, in the sense that they had to hoe their own way in the world. Sheridan's parents were poor Irish immigrants. Sherman was an orphan, who owed his appointment to the friendship and influence of the Ohio statesman, Thomas Ewing. Of the famous Generals of the Union Army, not one was the son of a rich man. They were with scarcely an exception sons of hard-working American farmers, poor country doctors or ministers. It is as true today of the regular Army and Navy as it was sixty years ago that appointments are given to promising boys who have made their own way in the world. Scott, Taylor and Worth won their way into the regular Army without any wealthy friends, and gained all their honors by their opportunity and valor, but it is just as true today as it was sixty years ago that the officers of the regular Army and Navy by a very large majority are what may be fairly called poor boys; that is, they are boys who are not sons of wealthy parents and are not expectantly ultimate heirs of wealth.

Bryan proved his ignorance or his impudence by quoting the regular Army as an illustration of the artificial obstacles to the rise of a poor boy in the world. When a man can enlist as a private soldier in our regular Army at 18 and at 57 be retired as a full Brigadier-General, it is absurd to talk about our standing Army as offering no chance for a poor boy to become an officer. On the contrary, it is the rule rather than the exception in the regular Army that the poor boy does become an officer.

The news that the Portuguese Government means to refuse the fugitive Boers an asylum in their South African territory, and will no longer permit the Dutch forces to draw supplies from Delagoa Bay, is probably true, if Portugal has recognized the British annexation of the Transvaal, recently announced, as valid. Great Britain and Portugal have for many years been on very friendly terms, and it is quite probable that Portugal would take the first legitimate opportunity to treat the Boers as rebels against a friendly state, and to refuse further right of supplies to what has become mere guerrilla resistance to British authority. Portugal could lawfully do this, and on the grounds of sound public policy would be justified in her action, for the kind of warfare now maintained by the scattered bands of Boers in the Transvaal is as absurd as guerrilla warfare in the mountains of Virginia, Tennessee and the Carolinas on the part of the Confederates would have been after the surrender of the armies of Lee and Johnston. The Orange Free State is as completely incapable of legitimate military resistance as was Virginia after Lee's surrender, and so is the Transvaal. A remnant of the Boer Army has retreated to the mountains, like the fox or wolf to its den. It is sure to be dug out or smoked out within a few weeks. Portugal, therefore, is justified in giving notice that she regards the legitimate battle as over; that her soil is not an asylum for fugitive guerrillas; that her railroad is not a supply line for rebels against the authority of a friendly power.

The Chinese dispatches indicate that Russia, with characteristic diplomatic astuteness, has "drawn the fire" of the other powers. She has thus scored a point for herself with the Chinese for the future, whether she modifies her original proposal to evacuate Pekin or not. If she modifies it to meet the views of the other powers, that dissent, she can say to China that she was compelled to yield her judgment to superior pressure. If she persists in her original determination, she will probably oblige the other powers either to assent or place them in a disadvantageous position for the negotiation of speedy and permanent peace; for with Russia standing aloof; China will be sure to haggle tediously over terms of peace. The favorite policy of China in diplomacy is to create dissension among the powers by exciting mutual jealousy and distrust. So long as the powers were united by a common purpose to rescue the imperiled Legations, this policy had no opportunity of success. But today, with the rescue accomplished, China is prompt to sow seeds of international distrust and discord. Russia knew China thoroughly, and promptly put herself first on the record in favor of the evacuation of Pekin; and thus makes herself "solid" with China whether the rest of the powers assent or dissent.

The Boston correspondent of the Springfield Republican predicts a great falling off in Maine next Monday from the Republican plurality of 1896. The Republican plurality in Maine at the state election of 1896 was 45,777. The Maine Republicans on a straight party vote obtained 23,253 plurality in 1888. If Maine gives 30,000 plurality this year she will show that she maintains more than her full party strength, which is not more than 25,000 plurality. In 1896 thousands of Democrats did not vote, and thousands voted for McKinley.

Hon. Carl Schurz, in his letter to Secretary Gage, agrees that Bryan may be elected without danger, since the Republicans in Congress and the legislation they have enacted will prevent him from doing any serious harm. Secretary Gage makes a point, and makes it strongly, in his reply, when he says: "May I not suggest that the way to secure safety is not to take power from those upon whom you rely for protection and confer it upon those whose action you may have good cause to regret?"

There is no profound significance in the Vermont election. But that is not Mr. Hanna's reason for saying so. He doesn't want to promote overconfidence. He would much prefer to stimulate offerings of campaign funds.

Would it be unreasonable to ask Colonel Bryan or Mr. Cockran to explain why the secret alliance with Great Britain melted away at the first breath of actual international dealings in China?

Li Hung Chang prefers to pacify the powers rather than the Boxers. He also has gumption to stay out of Pekin and to negotiate at long range. Otherwise he might lose his precious head.

Bryan's Evasion Very Significant.

New York Journal of Commerce.

Much less evasion might have been expected on the other issue, silverism, for it is one that Mr. Bryan has fought one Presidential campaign on, and on which a very large body of voters have supported him and will support him again. Yet after insisting that silverism should be named in the platform, while all the rest of the Chicago platform was covered by a general indorsement, he avoided the subject in his speech accepting the nomination, and has since refused to say whether he would as President order "coin" bonds to be paid in silver. Our esteemed contemporary, the Herald, is entitled to general thanks for sending a representative to ask Mr. Bryan this question, and the candidate's reply was, "Say Mr. Bryan declines to be interviewed on that subject." Why should he decline? As a silverite he has repeatedly insisted that silver should be forced upon the public creditor; that it was a legal tender, and that in giving the public creditor the option of the money he would be paid in the Treasury had for years been discriminating against silver and in favor of gold. Mr. Bryan is bound by everything he has ever said on the coinage question to order silver to be paid to the public creditors if he shall get into the White House, and the question of his election to the Presidency depends upon the question whether his financial policy is better than that which has prevailed for twenty years. But when Mr. Bryan is asked a question vitally related to the cause he is supposed to represent, and to the course he would pursue as President, he refuses to be interviewed.

Mr. Bryan desires to be President, but does not dare say what he would do as to "imperialism" or as to silverism.

LOWELL AND HOWELLS.

Two of Our Authors Seen in Interesting Circumstances.

New York Commercial Advertiser.

The most interesting article in Scribner's Magazine for September is the paper by Mr. Howells containing his personal impressions of James Russell Lowell. Mr. Howells met the great critic and essayist in the Summer of 1865 at Lowell's home at Elmwood, on which occasion he presented Lowell with an inkstand in the shape of a bronze lobster, which from that time remained upon the recipient's writing table for the space of 25 years. The following passage is extremely characteristic both of Mr. Lowell and of Mr. Howells:

> He lighted his pipe, and from the depths of his easy chair invited my shy youth to all the ease it was capable of in his presence. It was not much; I loved him, and he had given me reason to think that he was fond of me, but I was always aware in him of an older and closer and stricter civilization, an unbroken tradition, a more authoritative status. His democracy was more of the head, and mine more of the heart, and his denied the equality which mine affirmed. But his nature was so noble and his reason so tolerant that whenever in our long acquaintance I found it well to come to open rebellion, as I more than once did, he admitted my right of insurrection and never resented the outbreak. He even suffered being taxed with inconsistency, and where he saw that he had not been quite just he would take punishment for his error, with a contrition that was sometimes humorous and always touching.

Other bits of reminiscence have to do with criticism made by Lowell upon some of the writings of Mr. Howells which had, as Lowell thought, too cynical a tone. "Sweat the Heine out of you," he said, "as men sweat the mercury out of their bones." The Lowell whom we have here is the later Lowell and not the Lowell of the "Bigelow Papers," but a soberer and graver and far more serious man, one who "was quite past the storm and stress of his anti-slavery age," one who "had reached the age of misgiving." His views of life, of government and of law, which last he had come to regard with "a quite Socratic reverence," were thoroughly conservative. Somewhat later, he came to be disappointed with his country; and writing once from Europe he spoke of it as "The Land of Broken Promise." He was thinking, says Mr. Howells, of the shame of our municipal corruptions, of the debased quality of our National statesmanship, and the decadence of our whole civic tone. Part of these reminiscences naturally relate to literature; and we are informed that by reason of the constant urging that he met with, Lowell once decided to write a novel, and actually went so far as to finish the first chapter. This, however, was as much of it as he ever did; and one day he said, "I shall never finish it," and laid the manuscript away to turn and light his pipe. He was extremely sensitive to criticism, especially from those whom he respected or particularly liked; and though he would try to hide his hurt one could always see how much he suffered. Quite an interesting passage is that which gives his view of women:

> He revered them and honored them, but he would rather not have them about. . . . There was never a more devoted husband, and he was content to let his devotion to the sex end with that. He especially could not abide difference of opinion in women. He valued their taste, their wit, their humor, but he would have none of their reason. . . . As to women of the flirtatious type, he did not dislike them; no man, perhaps, does; but he feared them, and he said that with him there was but one way, and that was to run.

Gold Democrats' Duty.

Baltimore American.

M. E. Ingalls, president of the Big Four Railroad system, former president of the Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad, a lifelong Democrat and a man of keen intellect and much political acumen, takes no uncertain stand in this campaign. In a magazine article just published, he says, with distinctness and emphasis:

> The safety of the American Republic is not menaced by a bogey, crowned with an imperial diadem of straw. The cry of imperialism is simply a pretext of the Democratic leaders. Now, as in 1896, the real issue is the silver danger. The only peril now threatening the United States is ruin and retrogression under silver, the turning back of the wheels of progress and prosperity to the standards of China and Mexico, and the abandonment of our position as the greatest country in the civilized world.

There is a different ring to that statement from what one hears in the words of Bryan and his champions. Mr. Ingalls sees the majesty of this nation, and he has confidence in its future and its ability to deal with great questions. As good, if not better, in his Democracy than Bryan, Mr. Ingalls sees no reason to take the issue of imperialism seriously. It does not menace; it is merely a bogey "crowned with an imperial diadem of straw."

In all seriousness, we ask whose word is most entitled to belief—that of Bryan, an aspiring politician, with all to gain and nothing to lose, or that of Ingalls, the man of substance, familiar with the needs, commercially and financially, of the nation, and with vast interests to safeguard and protect? Ingalls sees not for the sake of an office, as does Bryan. The very nature of his occupation requires him to study well conditions, and his advocacy of McKinley is inspired only by a conservative solicitude in the welfare and material wellbeing of the nation. He knows, as he says, that "under McKinley we go forward; under Bryan we turn back."

The plight of the nation between 1893 and 1897 taught the men of conservative tendencies that there must be no more going back. And when men like Ingalls forsake party and urge voters to support McKinley, and aid in sending the nation still further forward, they are giving advice that should be accepted and acted upon without hesitation.

No Change, Is There?

New York Evening Post.

The Republican State Convention in Washington showed how little foundation there is for the confidence which Bryan expressed in a Nebraska speech, the other day, that nobody who voted for him on the issues of 1896 has changed his mind on those issues. Four years ago the silver sentiment was so strong in Washington that 112 out of 402 delegates favored putting a free coinage plank in the platform, and when election day came, Bryan swept the State for "16 to 1" by a plurality of 12,500. In last week's convention not a voice was raised in favor of free coinage; satisfaction was expressed that "the Democratic heresy of free silver has been put to sleep by a Republican Congress," and the party pointed with pride to the fact that "the gold standard has been reaffirmed in the most positive and satisfactory manner."

Washington is thus in line with its neighbor, Oregon, where, in 1896, a majority of the Republican State Convention voted against putting a declaration opposing free coinage in the platform, and adopted instead a "straddle," while this year it was declared that "the maintenance of the gold standard is the most important political issue." Such proofs of returning sanity are most welcome.

QUESTION OF LIMITING TAXATION

A taxpayer of Wasco County, who, over the signature of "L," expressed his views on the tax rate in a communication published in The Oregonian of the 18th inst., has evidently been a close reader of the paper, as well as of the August Forum, from which he quotes, as the views expressed are similar and in some instances identical with those that have been presented in these columns from time to time for years past. Thus, when he says, speaking of the relatively slow settlement of Oregon and the development of its resources, that no railroad man, with a full knowledge of the facts, is going to come into and invest his means to develop and build up a country where the tax-gatherer will take up all his profits, he but restates a well-known fact in familiar language. And when he adds: "All of our expenses are too great. All of the men who are employed in public capacities are paid far more than they could earn in private life," what he says is but "iteration hammered on the ear" in the form of a statement which nobody, except it be the chronic office-holder, disputes. The development of the resources adn the rapid increase in population of Texas is cited on the competent authority of Robert T. Hill, of the United States Geological Survey, the larger part of whose life has been spent in that state, in support of the proposition that taxation can and should be in the interest of the material progress of a commonwealth, subject to constitutional limitation. Taxation in Texas, quoting Mr. Hill, is limited by the constitution to 35 cents on $1, and county and city taxes to 25 cents. The story of development which this tax rate encouraged is told in the rapid growth of the manufacturing and lumbering interests of the state, in the steady increase of its agricultural and pastoral wealth, and in a population numbering 3,500,000 souls. While there is little that is new in the citations of this correspondent in regard to the unequal methods of taxation in Oregon, the burdens which are imposed upon our citizens by exorbitant taxes and of the handicap that these methods and conditions have been to our prosperity, they belong to a class of truths which will bear frequent reiteration. Grounded in custom, entrenched to a greater or less extent in law, and jealously guarded by the office-holding contingent of both political parties, our methods of assessment and taxation occupy a strong but by no means an invulnerable position. A constitutional provision limiting the tax rate to 10 mills on the dollar, as proposed by this correspondent, would no doubt find greater favor with a majority of electors than did either of the five constitutional amendments voted upon last June. Nor would the enactment of laws providing for the rapid discharge of existing obligations, coupled with an interdiction against incurring indebtedness whatever for state, county or municipal purposes, be unpopular with the unthinking masses. Opposition to such laws, however, when their enforcement began to be felt in the curtailment of privileges in electric lighting, free bridges, free schools of varying degrees from primary to university courses, and so on through the entire list of "free" things, so-called, which the taxpayer, groaning, supplies, would speedily develop, since there are other habits besides those of fraudulent assessment and enormous taxation into which we, as a people, have unfortunately fallen. We want a great many things in the line of luxuries that can only be paid for by a heavy tax levy. We secure what we want and forthwith grumble at the price—not, however, forgetting to press additional demands for luxuries at the public experse. It is plain that before we can fix an arbitrary limit to the state, county and municipal tax rate, we must limit our expenses, first of all setting a proper limit upon the desire for "free" things and institutions. The public needs to understand, first of all, that nothing is "free"; that everything has to be paid for in the coin of the realm, and that before taxation can be limited, or very greatly reduced in this state or in any county or city thereof, it will first be necessary to place a check upon the growing tendency to merge individual into state or governmental responsibility. The elimination of excessive officialism, with its heavy salary contingent, from our expense account will be an easy task (though a hard one) compared to that of setting a limit upon individual extravagance, which makes demand upon the taxpayer for means to gratify its whims.

Another Soldier's Father Heard From.

New York Sun.

General Isaac S. Catlin, the distinguished Brooklyn war veteran, who deserted the Republican party about ten years ago and twice supported Cleveland for the Presidency, is again back in the Republican fold. At a reunion of his fellow-veterans of the One Hundred and Ninth New York Volunteers, at Owego, N. Y., on Monday, he made a patriotic address, in which he upheld the policy of President McKinley and denounced the so-called anti-imperialists, comparing them to the Tories of the Revolution and the Copperheads of the Civil War. "No matter," he said, "how high a man may stand politically, he is morally guilty of treason when he promises to give aid to the Filipinos, if the rebels keep on fighting. I have a son fighting in the Philippines. He is a Captain in the regular army. If he should lose his life or limb in a Filipino ambuscade, his life or his blood will rest on the heads and the gory hands of those who are citizens of the United States and yet are urging the Filipinos to fight against the United States."

MEN AND WOMEN.

Admiral Alexieff, head of the Russian naval forces in Chinese waters, is a man of 55 years of age. He has a great deal of Tartar blood in his veins.

General Chaffee is very studious, and has always worked hard in order to train for the Army, as he did not have the advantage of an education at West Point. He has taken a full course of law and military tactics in order to educate himself for his duties.

A woman owns one of the largest orchards in this country. She is Mrs. Laura A. Alderman, and owns 150 acres and 8000 trees near Harley, Turner County, S. D. The ground also has 1000 currant bushes, 1000 gooseberry bushes, 500 grapevines and three acres of strawberries.

Prince Oscar Bernadotte, King Oscar's second son, recently returned home from his tour of inquiry into the welfare of the Laplanders. Twice a year he makes this trip, accompanied by a clergyman of the Lutheran Church, and carries on an active religious propaganda within the Arctic circle.

Prince Eiu Wha, the second son of the King of Corea, is again in this country, having come for the purpose of taking a course at Roanoke College, in Virginia, among the alumni of which are several of his countrymen. Prince Eiu spent several months in Washington three years ago, as the guest of Pom Kwang Soh, the former Corean Minister.

It is said that Mrs. Clemens (Mark Twain's wife) plays a very important part in her husband's literary life. All that he writes passes, under her severe censorship. She is a most acute critic, and if there be anything in what he may have written which does not meet with her entire approval, the "copy" goes straightway to the waste basket or is held back for revision.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

If Bryan ever gets to be President it will not be by the voice of the people, but by his own.

If General Buller wants to eat his next Christmas dinner in Pekin, the way has been opened for him.

Adlai Stevenson has been strangely silent of late. Can it be he has lapsed into innocuous desuetude?

The census shows that Nebraska's population has died off since 1890. It is suspected people can be talked to death.

The latest is that Bryan is the cause of the McKinley good times. He certainly is the cause of his own good times.

After General Grosvenor had delivered a stump speech in Western Maryland the other day, one man asked another: "What do you think of it?" "I haven't made up my mind," was the answer. "All I know is that when the white-whiskered gentleman said anything about Old Glory the crowd made a thundering lot of noise."

Senator Tillman adopted a novel method to test the wishes of his party as to his return to the United States Senate. No candidate appeared against him, and so he invited all voters who opposed his re-election to scratch his name at the primaries. If a majority scratched, the Senator promised to retire. Out of 33,000 ballots 30,000 were found to have been scratced, so that he won by 23,000 plurality.

During the thunderstorm in Philadelphia a few evenings ago lightning struck a marble statue of Diana at an entrance to Fairmount Park. Immediately afterward the left leg of the statue turned brown. Next morning all the coloring had disappeared except one large spot, which has so far resisted persistent scrubbing and the application of powerful acids.

On the recently completed pavement of Stark street, between Third and Fourth, a number of messenger boys were flitting around on bicycles like sand snipe on the beach. They were endeavoring to jump their bicycles over a pile of sand, but generally failed, and were brought to grief by their wheels sticking in the sand. Finally one of the boys began cutting figure 8s on the pavement, and asked another if he could cut a figure 8. "I can come within one of it," was the reply, and he marked out a big figure 7.

The 500 Russian, Romanian, Servian, Bulgarian, Georgian and Armenian students of the University of Genoa have a restaurant of their own, where they can have a substantial dinner at a low price. Each member of the association is obliged in turn to help the cook who prepares the food. There are no waiters or servants in the establishment. During the Winter season the Russian Students' Society organizes lectures. Dancing soirees, theatrical representations and tableaux vivants are also given during the season.

The London Christian World says that Dr. Johnson, the bishop suffragan of Colchester, was recently called upon in the line of duty to consecrate an addition to a cemetery. But through some blunder of the local officials he consecrated the portion which is to be used for the burial of those not members of the Anglican Church. And the question now before churchmen is whether the spiritual benefits of the act of consecration will adhere to the ground actually consecrated or to that which the bishop intended to consecrate.

If the elks which roam the forests of Oregon could only see the style in which the antlers of their departed brothers are fitted out with electric lights, and understood what a convenience these lights would be in traveling through the underbrush in the dark nights every elk of them which has antlers would march into Portland and have his antlers wired and provide himself with a storage battery. Think how the "wild huntsman" and his gang would be thrown into the shade by a band of elk, their antlers ablaze with colored lights, rushing through the forest on a wild winter night.

PLEASANTRIES OF PARAGRAPHERS

Not Effusive.—He—Did you have it cool this Summer? She—I ought to. I stopped in a hotel where there were only ultra-fashionable people.—Detroit Free Press.

Familiar.—Sea Captain—Look, gentlemen! There's a whale! Forty Male Passengers—Looks like the fish that got away from me last Summer.—New York Weekly.

Versatile.—"I admire your wife's style of writing. Her diction is perfect." "Yes, her diction is all right. So is her contradiction. That's wonderful."—Harper's Bazar.

Johnny's Current History.—The teacher asked the scholars to write a sentence in which the word "chaste" was used. Johnny Wise, who keeps posted on current events, wrote: "Aguinaldo is the most chaste man there is."—Baltimore American.

Political Psychology.—"How indignant Simpkins is that everybody doesn't indorse his estimate of Bryan." "Yes, but I know Simpkins; he isn't indignant that Bryan isn't indorsed—he's indignant that people disagree with him."—Indianapolis Journal.

The Cure.—"Did you ever experiment with the Kneipp cure?" asked one of the inmates of the convalescent ward at the hospital. "Only for poverty," answered the other, a large, freckled-faced woman. "I always went barefoot when we lived on the farm."—Chicago Tribune.

The Only Complaint.—"What kind of a climate have you here?" "It's fine," answered the resident. "The only trouble is that the weather gets discouraged and quits too soon. The Summers are too short to produce bananas and pineapples, and the Winters aren't long enough to raise polar bears."—Washington Star.

The Time That Didn't Turn Back.

Chicago Times-Herald.

Backward, turn backward, O Time, in your flight,
Make me sixteen again, just for tonight!
Let me go tearing around as of yore,
With my own joys to think of and not a thing more,
With no one depending on me to make good
For house rent or coal bills or clothing or food,
With father still doing the stewing and I
Not caring a cent nor inquiring why.

Backward, turn backward, O Time, and permit
Me once more to sit here believing I'm "it"—
Put in my heart the delusion again
That I know the whole thing, as I thought I did then!
Fill me with dreams of high honors in store
That I'm always too busy to have any more;
Let me depend upon others instead—
Oh, yes! yes! I'm coming! I'll put 'em to bed!

Spirit of Song.

Charles W. Stevenson in N. Y. Observer.

I dwell in the dancing beam;
I travel the tenuous air;
Shadow and stream and star
Enfold me, unaware;
I peer from the bosky wood;
I pass, and the sunset glows;
I am the voice of the mutable deep,
The smile of the wild white rose.

Young as the dawn, and fair;
Old as the swooning hills;
I dream, on the desert bare;
I run, with the rain-fed rills,
For I am the Spirit of Song!
Melodic to man alone;—
But unto the doubting soul, I am
The desolate sea's gray stone.