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men; as one of many 'interests' that must be recognized and conciliated when they cannot safely be snubbed. When the reformers are strong enough to subject him to severe pressure to do his duty, he throws a bone to the growling watchdog of civil service reform, but never takes the initiative in seeking to improve the civil service by making entrance to it depend upon merit rather than favor. Civil service reform is no more a principle, a cause, to McKinley than the 'spoils system.' He treats both as powerful antagonistic factions within the party, and astutely and complacently plays one off against the other. He recognizes Quay and Platt and Beveridge as bosses whom it is always safe to use, and always dangerous to 'turn down'; he recovers Civil Service Reformer Foulke so cordially that that excellent man goes away convinced that the President would be a most stalwart, aggressive champion of the cause of civil service reform if it were not for the fact that National emergencies sometimes oblige him to conceal his natural-born antagonism for the spoils system and all its works. The spoilsman thinks they 'own' the President; the civil service reformers think that while he is compelled to give his hand occasionally to the spoilsman, his heart is always with the cause of reform. The truth is that the President uses both and abuses both for his own purposes at every opportunity. He is with one and against the other alternately, just according to whether the pirate ship of the spoilsman draws more water than carries more good will. The good government of the civil service reformers. Mr. McKinley never was a reformer in spirit; he is an astute politician, an able opportunist; he treats both spoilsman and reformers with charming courtesy; he pleads sympathy with and respect for civil service reform when 'the bosses' ask for something that he doesn't wish to grant, and he pleads the strength and power of McKinley with the civil service reformers as a reason why he is obliged to hasten slowly in the execution of his passionate desire and purpose to improve the public service. The civil service reformers find Mr. McKinley a dangerous because a most artful enemy. At the outset of the crusade for civil service reform legislation General Grant was openly and honestly incredulous of either his wisdom or his practicality. He didn't hesitate to confess that he liked to appoint his friends to office, because it was safer to appoint a man you knew than a man you knew nothing about. It was comparatively easy to meet and beat open, honest opposition like that of Grant, because the ground of it would not endure discussion, but it is far more difficult to meet the opposition of President McKinley, who professes warm friendship for the cause, but whose sublimity of mind, and administration of the civil service law is a deadly to the cause of reform. Thus his study is not to reform the public service, but to bend both friends and foes of reform to his own purposes by alternately patting the head of the civil service reform watchdog and soothing the fur on the back of the spoilsman civet-cat.

PORTLAND, THURSDAY, MAY 2, 1901.

TAXATION OF MORTGAGES.

The New York Legislature is pressed by the agricultural sections to enact stringent mortgage-tax legislation. The measure known as the Stranahan bill, has awakened a storm of protest. It relates solely to mortgages secured on real property located in New York State. All mortgages executed in the state are to be recorded, a heavy penalty is provided where there is a failure to record, while a money reward equal to one-half of the tax recovered is held out to any person giving information of evasion. Mortgages held by trust companies are exempt, on the ground that such holdings are already taxed. Mortgages on property in New York State otherwise held are to be taxed one-half of 1 per cent, and two-thirds of the revenue is to go to the state treasury and one-third to the locality where collected or where the mortgage is recorded. The payment of the 5-mill state tax relieves the mortgagee from local taxation, under which he now pays a tax sometimes as high as 2 per cent. The penalties laid upon evasion and the inducements held out by the bill for information as to evasions are expected to bring all mortgages upon the records and secure a thorough application of the tax. It is singular that the great and enlightened State of New York should seek to revise this mortgage-tax policy. The money-lender is sure under any law that will reduce the tax on mortgages based upon equity situated in the state, although mortgages held in the state are really outside the commonwealth are taxable, when the Assessors are able to locate them, which is seldom, except in cases of estates passing through the probate courts. The mortgages now outstanding on New York real estate are estimated to be worth about \$1,900,000,000, of which about \$1,000,000,000 must be held by individuals and taxable under the Stranahan measure.

THE MORALS OF PUBLIC MEN.

The collapse of dissipation of Thomas F. Grady, who has been the Democratic leader in the upper branch of the New York Legislature, and the death from the same cause of Democratic Congressman Bradley, leads the New York Evening Post to remark that the breakdown of a politician of color is a much rarer event than it was a generation ago; that men in public life do not become drunkards or even occasionally expose themselves while under the influence of liquor in our day as in that of our fathers and grandfathers. This is true in the recent conduct of outward life, but it is not true of America than it is of England. There are not as many public men of religious America, and England perhaps are were in the days of our grandfathers, but there are more men who are observant of moral decency and restraint in their public life. This only means that civilization has become more refined in its manners, so that public indecency is deemed the mark of low breeding and intemperance the earmark of bad manners. The so-called minor morals of so great a man as Alexander Hamilton were so bad that in our day he would have been held to stern account by his constituents. William H. Crawford, a distinguished statesman, candidate for President in 1824, died of paresis brought on by alcoholism. Edward Livingston, Jackson's Secretary of State, a man of great ability, was loose in his social and business relations; Henry Clay was taunted by John Randolph with being a notorious gambler, and could not tollably have charged Randolph with gross intemperance in the use of alcohol. Luther Martin, a very great lawyer, who defended Aaron Burr in his trial for treason, was a grossly intemperate man; Silas Wright died in his intellectual prime, and undoubtedly shortened his days by too free use of alcohol. Daniel Webster did not practice the restraint that would be demanded of a leading statesman today; neither did William H. Seward, nor President Franklin Pierce, and President Andrew Johnson. Among the great statesmen that swayed the Nation before the outbreak of the Civil War, John C. Calhoun was conspicuous for his absolute freedom from dissipation of any sort, and that stern old soldier, Andrew Jackson, was a model of temperance and purity in his private life. Before the Civil War hard drinking was common among Congressmen, and distinguished men like Thad Stevens, of Pennsylvania, and George Ashmun, of Massachusetts, were notorious gamblers. During the Civil War men of fine public talents, like Senator McDougal, of California, and Senator Salesbury, of Delaware, sometimes appeared on the floor of the Senate the worse for liquor, and thirty years ago it was a common sight during the train to see some necessary men of high distinction and ability on the floor when they were not themselves from drink. Doubtless the scenes of violence on the floor of Congress before the war were due quite as much to alcoholism as they were to partisan bitterness or 'plantation' manners. No Senator of the distinction that was enjoyed by Matt Carpenter, of Wisconsin, in life could afford today to exhibit his contempt for the decencies of life in his relations with women. The rise in the public standard of sobriety and decency shows itself not only in Congress among men of a superior average of intelligence and intellect, but even in the New York City engineers of the

Tammany Hall government are men of sobriety and purity in their domestic relations. Tweed was a gross feeder, a drinker and a man of loose life, and so were all of his confederates save Sweeney; but Croker and his lieutenants are men entirely decent and sober in their private lives. Even the New York Board of Aldermen, composed of a very low type of office-holders, is free from drunkenness. This ever-widening circle of sobriety and decency is as much in evidence in England as it is in America. Up to the accession of Queen Victoria, in 1837, public manners tolerated dissipation and loose life among public men. George IV and William IV brought to the throne the gross dissipation and indecent manners of the common in their youth, when the greatest orator and statesman of his century, Fox, was a most reckless gambler, when his great rival, Pitt, could not make a long speech without a skin full of wine. The Duke of Wellington and Lord Melbourne were survivors in their habits of the free-and-easy morals of the regency, but they soon succeeded a line of decorous, well-behaved statesmen whose public habits and personal manners gave no offense to public moral sense. The same change is seen in literature on both sides of the water. The hard drinking of Thackeray's day shocked Charles Sumner, and in the early days of American periodical literature there was a good deal of dissipation among the New York literati of the quality of N. P. Willis and Charles Fenno Hoffman. The standard of literary and political conduct of the best moralists and decency has been large and general on both sides of the water within fifty years. It is not due to religion; it is not based on sentimental grounds; it is a matter of business and a growth of refinement in public manners. Men of business frown on the undue use of stimulants, and men and women of fashion teach by precept and example that public intemperance or indecency is to be forborne with, and will not be pardoned by Mrs. Grundy.

COLOR LINE IN CLUBDOM.

It is one of the curious revenges of time that the proposal to discharge negro servants and hire whites at the New York Union League Club should have been defeated, despite the recommendation of the house committee, largely through the influence and eloquence of a Southern man, born and bred, an ex-confederate soldier, John S. Wise, whose father was Governor of Virginia when John Brown was hanged. Wise was a slaveholder, and, of course, his son was familiar with the negro character from boyhood. Perhaps this very familiarity makes him less sensitive to mere physical repulsion felt by Northern born and bred men for the negro. While it is true that Southern men laugh at the physical aversion of Northern men for the negro, probably a higher and nobler reason influenced Mr. Wise in his opposition to the discharge of colored help. He probably felt that there was really no just ground for their discharge save the mean prejudice of the aristocracy of skin, and that to yield to this prejudice would be unworthy of an organization like the Union League Club. Remembering that the black man, through the social malevolence of his enemies and the political folly of his friends, has a hard time to secure justice, North or South, Mr. Wise doubtless was desirous to hold the right hand of fellowship out to that miserable public opinion which suffered offending negroes to be cruelly mobbed in New York City because a negro criminal had shot a policeman. Mr. Wise probably remembered that some ten years ago the son of an eminent Jew banker, one of the founders of the Union League Club, was black-balled by some young members of the club, an act of folly which caused several eminent Jew members of the club like Edwin Einstein to withdraw from it. This manifestation of exclusiveness has now been followed by an effort to employ none but white help. Of course, to these youngsters the historic fame of the Union League Club as a participant in the war for the Union and in the legislation that followed is a thing of no consequence, so they turn the club is merely a house for social entertainment, an art gallery and a banquet hall. To Mr. Wise its political fame is sacred, despite the fact that when the club was founded he was fighting on the other side. Yet this brilliant, big-brained Southern man is broad-minded and generous-hearted enough not only to be glad that the negro is no longer a slave, but to be anxious that as free man the negro should have a fair chance to earn his bread without having to carry the cross of the color line all his days on his shoulders, not only in his social, but in his industrial life. This gifted son of a gifted Southern slaveholder felt some sympathy for the race whose virtues he had seen in his childhood, when decent black women were household nurses to the master's babies, and faithful black men were contentedly and properly regards the right and suffering she thus inadvertently inflicted upon the children. No annoyance, however great, and no injury which little girls could possibly inflict, would for a moment justify a retaliatory act so cruel. Let us believe, therefore, that the incident recorded was purely accidental, and be glad that the injuries inflicted upon the children were not serious.

THE WISHES AND DESIRES OF THE ASTORIA ENGINEERS.

The wishes and desires of the Astoria engineers in regard to an Oriental steamship line out of the Columbia River are difficult to understand. For months they have berated Portland and the O. R. & N. Co. for not providing a service sufficient to stop the flow of Oregon products to rival ports on Puget Sound. A line adequate for all demands has been provided, and because the first steamer of this line went out without a full cargo they are devoting all of their puny efforts to 'knocking the enterprising Portland' will take care of this line, however, and as soon as we get water enough below Astoria to handle safely the ships that can come to Portland we will replace the Indravell, Indrapura and Knight Companon with still larger steamers. Hesitation of the Council to act precipitately in the matter of telephone and messenger franchises is to be commended in view of the opinion of the City Attorney that the matter is designedly removed there matters from the jurisdiction of the Council and turned them over to the Board of Public Works. It is difficult to see what specific directions on the handling of wires, for example, is left to the Council's power, by a plain provision giving

to the Board of Public Works 'exclusive management and control of the construction of all public local improvements, of the erection of poles and the stringing of wires,' as well as authority to 'allow, authorize, provide for, maintain and removal of telephone, telegraph, electric light, electric railway and other poles, wires and cables,' etc. Franchises, to be sure, are in the Council's hands, but details of wire-stringing such as are contemplated, especially, in the rights asked for by a third messenger company, seem to lie with the Board of Public Works. Multiplication of wires is becoming a serious menace to life and property. What is the use of ordering telephone wires under ground and permitting messenger wires to be strung up?

THE OREGON TRAIL, FROM INDEPENDENCE, MO., TO OREGON CITY.

The Oregon trail, from Independence, Mo., to Oregon City, is carefully and charmingly described by Professor F. G. Young, secretary of the Oregon Historical Society, in the fourth number of its quarterly, just issued. The account is accompanied by a map showing the route taken by the immigrant trains, which, from Fort Kearney westward, was nearly the same as that subsequently adopted for the Union Pacific Railroad. All the historic landmarks of the trail are noted and half-tone illustrations show each of these in detail. This is the result of a great deal of laborious and intelligent research, and it belongs rather to American history in its broader sense than to the story of Oregon in the narrow sense. Professor Young's description of the trail is a historical paper of the greatest value. It is done with discrimination and something is given of the circumstances of each great train, making the story a complete one. This is a new achievement, and perhaps the greatest one, of the Oregon Historical Society, and much credit belongs to Professor Young for the accurate and satisfactory manner in which the work has been accomplished.

LOOMIS' COURSE APPROVED.

NEW YORK, May 1.—A special to the Herald from Washington says that Loomis will be given to understand that the United States has formally approved the course pursued by Minister Frank B. Loomis in his action upon various matters in dispute between the two governments. At the same time she will be told that the United States relies upon her sense of justice in the settlement of these matters. Instructions setting forth the attitude of the Administration have been sent by the State Department to Mr. Russell, Charge d'Affaires in Caracas. Mr. Russell will immediately call upon the Venezuelan Minister for Foreign Affairs and apprise him of the fact that the policy of the United States in the several cases pending in the name of the United States is in the opinion of the authorities the withdrawal of Minister Loomis. Diplomatic representations are considered ample at this time, and especially in view of the action of the Venezuelan Government in expelling Minister Russell for the arrest of Ignacio H. Blas, Consular agent in Barcelona. By its expression of regret the Venezuela Government is in the opinion of the authorities shown a desire to remove all irritation from the relations existing between it and the United States.

FRANCE AND VENEZUELA.

PARIS, May 1.—The French Foreign Office has no information regarding the reported signing of a protocol between France and Venezuela, by which the diplomatic relations between the countries will now be resumed. It is supposed the report means that Venezuela has decided to accept the terms of the Caracas case, recently discussed by the Venezuelan Minister to the United States with the Foreign Office and was given to understand that France adhered to her original demands arising from the Venezuelan trouble and their acceptance by a necessary preliminary to the resumption of relations. Since, however, Venezuela has found that considerable injury has been wrought to her coffee trade, she has been anxious to resume relations. The proposal to divide the school fund of Virginia between the white and black races, in proportion to the amount of taxes paid by them respectively, is denounced by United States Senator Daniel as 'lacking in just regard for the natural relations of the state to its citizens. It would contain a restriction upon legislative power unprecedented in the United States. It would put out of sympathy with the great body of our law-abiding citizens, and would be a large mass of them, both black and white, in our own commonwealth.' The Richmond Times supports Senator Daniel, denouncing such a step as cruel and calculated to advertise the Virginia whites as possessed with 'a hatred toward the black race.'

ACT OF BRITISH COAL MINERS WILL DEPEND ON COMMONS DEBATE.

LONDON, May 1.—Whether or not the British miners will strike depends largely upon the result of discussion of the coal-taxation, which will be taken up in the House of Commons tomorrow. Although it is generally supposed the coal owners have been backing the miners with the offer of bringing before the House a proposition to modify the coal taxation project, there are signs of a division of opinion since the Federation reached its decision, and some of the influential owners, especially the exporters, are urging counsel of prudence. The miners' reason for advocating a strike appears to be based on fear that the owners will recoup themselves from the loss by an equivalent reduction in wages. Reports from the mining districts indicate that a majority of the miners are in favor of the strike. They have had two years of prospecting and the fund of their strike is overflowing. It is admitted, however, by Liberals and Conservatives that their ill-adviced action will have no effect so far as a repeal of the coal tax is concerned. Their wild country condemns the strike, which will tend to disorganize the industries, and as the people have little sympathy with the coal trade, which during the 12 months has realized huge profits at the expense of the community, the only effect of the strike is likely to draw the support of the people toward the government. The prospect of strike has caused dismay among the mill and foundry owners, as there are no stocks in hand at the collieries.

THE DEATH ROLL.

NEW YORK, May 1.—William F. Davidson, a well-known engineer, who assisted in laying out the route of the Union Pacific Railroad, died in Bellevue Hospital last evening from injuries received by being knocked down by a horse and wagon. He was 68 years old.

CONGRESSMAN CRAMP.

RAY CITY, Mich., May 1.—Congressman Crump, Representative from the 10th Congressional District, died at the hotel at West Bay City early today from heart trouble. He was 58 years of age. He was elected to Congress last fall for the fourth time.

W. H. ELLIOTT.

DETROIT, Mich., May 1.—Hon. W. H. Elliott, member of the Republican committee, died today after a brief illness, aged 57.

SAMUEL D. MURRAY.

TOLLEDO, O., May 1.—Samuel D. Murray, a millionaire patent medicine manufacturer, died at his home in this city last evening.

SON OF THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

LONDON, May 1.—Hon. Artilde Wodehouse, son of the Earl of Kimberley, is dead, aged 41 years.

EXPLANATION FROM VENEZUELA

WASHINGTON, May 1.—The State Department has received from the Government of Venezuela a statement explaining the circumstances under which Ignacio Blas, United States Consular agent at Barcelona, came to be arrested and mutilated of a heavy fine. While no details are furnished, it is stated that the action of the Venezuela Government in this matter is all that could be desired and that Blas, who has recovered or will recover the money extorted from him, will not be further molested.

A CONGRESSIONAL JUNCTURE.

WASHINGTON, May 1.—The subcommittee of the House Committee on rivers and harbors, appointed to prepare an itinerary for the committee for the coming inspection of the harbors of the Pacific Coast, was in session today. A definite decision to leave Washington, June 2, was reached. New Orleans will be the first objective point. After leaving New Orleans, stops will be made at Houston, Buffalo Bayou and Galveston. From Texas the party will go to Los Angeles, San Diego, Cal., making no stop on the coast between San Diego and San Francisco will receive attention. The intention is to give four or five days to San Francisco and the Coast in its vicinity. A day or two will be spent at Sacramento, and then the harbors of Oregon and Washington will be visited. Seattle will be reached about July 1. Thence some of the party will make a pleasure trip to Alaska. All told, the inspection will consume something over six weeks.

THE NORDSTROM CASE.

Suggestions in printed form were filed in the United States Supreme Court today by counsel on both sides in the case of Charles W. Nordstrom, the criminal from the State of Washington, whose name became famous by reason of his execution having been delayed for nine years since his original sentence for murder. On behalf of Nordstrom, James H. Lewis filed his objection to the motion made by Attorney Fulton, on behalf of the state, for dismissal of the case as brought to the court on a motion for a writ of error in the Supreme Court of Washington. Lewis says that in this case he has had only three days' notice, under the rules of the court. He also alleges discrepancies in the whole course of the proceedings on the Supreme Court docket until he arrived in this city a few days ago, and asserts that the questions involved are the same as in the Nordstrom proceedings brought here from the Federal Court, in which he says 30 days' notice was given, and contends that the objection is for delay only. He makes the same point by reference to the criticism, and asserts that by these tactics a perversion of justice is being accomplished.

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES.

The monthly comparative statement of Government receipts and expenditures shows that during April, 1901, the total receipts were \$47,767,881, and the total disbursements \$41,988,246, leaving a surplus for the month of \$5,779,635. The receipts from the several sources of revenue, as compared with the corresponding month last year, were:

Customs	Increase.	
\$1,131,718	\$ 490,000	
Internal revenue	20,228,211	1,420,000
Miscellaneous	4,512,837	90,000
Total receipts	16,273,366	1,580,000
April, 1900, of \$2,750,000.		
The expenditures are given as follows:		
Civil and miscellaneous	\$11,285,520	\$1,200,000
War	10,107,730	142,000
Interest	8,772,619	122,000
Indians	45,282	82,000
Pensions	10,138,912	170,000
Interest on public debt	6,682,112	200,000
Decrease.		

CIRCULATION AND COINAGE.

The monthly circulation statement issued by the Controller of the Currency based on the close of business on April 30, 1901, the circulation of National bank notes amounted to \$56,584,832, an increase for the year of \$6,406,494, and an increase for the month of \$289,601.

RURAL MAIL SERVICE INSPECTION.

General Superintendent Machen, of the free delivery division, will leave here this morning on duty of inspection of the rural free delivery service in the West. He will be away five or six weeks. He will visit the headquarters of districts at Denver, San Francisco and other points.

CONGRESS IN IOWA.

TENDER A RECEPTION ON HIS ARRIVAL AT COUNCIL BLAFFS.

OMAHA, Neb., May 1.—An advance guard of Iowa delegates left here this morning, and escorted Major Conger across the river this morning. At the depot there the Minister was received by Mayor Jennings and a party of distinguished guests from various parts of the state. The weather was perfect, and Mr. Conger's party was taken for a drive about the city, pausing in a downtown park for an informal reception. At the Grand Hotel a long line of people stood ready to shake hands with the Minister, and his reception reached the magnitude of an ovation. After the necessary suits were arranged shortly after the Minister, and was accorded a hearty reception. A brilliant assemblage was present in the dining-room when the principal guest entered, and the banquet proceeded without incident. Responding to the address of welcome by the Iowa committee, Minister Conger alluded to the situation in China. In reference to the inception of the Chinese trouble, Mr. Conger absolved the Bokers from all blame. He said: 'The principle of high officials,' he said, 'were responsible for the slaughter of the missionaries, and the real offenders have been the most punished. The Imperial Court, I believe, rejoiced that the thing they had brought to the end which they deserved.'

AT HIS DES MOINES HOME.

DES MOINES, Ia., May 1.—The special train bearing United States Minister Conger arrived in Des Moines at 10 o'clock tonight. An enormous crowd of people was at the station to meet the distinguished Iowa, who had passed through the trying scenes of the Orient. Major Conger and party were quickly transferred from the train to a carriage amid the cheers of the multitude, and escorted by a drum corps of veterans, passed up the street to the railway station, and at once went to the Conger home, just outside of the business district.

IF CUBANS CANNOT GOVERN THEMSELVES WE MUST DO IT FOR THEM.

WASHINGTON, April 28.—'Uncle Joe' Cannon, of Illinois, takes a matter-of-fact view of the Cuban situation. 'I am covered by the fact that the only government now existing in Cuba is by the President through the Army. The government, of course, will remain until the people of Cuba adopt a constitution and frame a government of their own, embodying the principles of the American Republic. In the meantime, Congress has plenipotentiary power in the premises, and has exercised that power by enacting the Platt amendment. The people of the Middle West, especially the farmers, are in a position in demonstrating that they are fitted for self-government. The interests of the people of Cuba, as well as of the United States, demand that we should see that there is law and order on the island. Our people also feel that we are bound in good faith to all the world to the same end.'

THE SIMPLE PROBLEM.

IF the Cubans should accept the Platt amendment,' continued the Illinois Congressman, 'and demonstrate their capacity for self-government, there will be no trouble with the people of the United States. But if they should not succeed in demonstrating that they are fitted for self-government, the interests of the people of Cuba, as well as of the United States, demand that we should see that there is law and order on the island. Our people also feel that we are bound in good faith to all the world to the same end.'

NOTE AND COMMENT.

Byran once more announces that he is not a Presidential candidate. Is—no he dead?
News is getting so slack that the paragraphs will soon be obliged to join in the chase after Dewey.
The Commener is going to hold a prize essay contest, and offers a gold medal to the winner. Alas, poor silver!
The street-car conductor who helps himself to \$100 at one time is too strenuous for that kind of a position.

That Evanston professor who never kissed a girl is a man with whom golden opportunity should waste no time.
Oh! let us sing a song of Spring.
Of birds and bees and budding trees.
And also quintine pills.

'Breakaway' would have been a better name than 'Get Together' for that New York club which recently went out of business.

The high-rolling nature of the land about Mount Tabor seems to have communicated itself to some of the juvenile inhabitants.

Queen Wilhelmina is beginning to find that she could have bought a first-class navy at a more reasonable figure than she has paid for that husband of hers.

The surprising thing is that the President's train started without James Creelman being on board. But perhaps James will trail the party on a special engine.

A Southern revivalist had the habit of kicking a horse at every town in which he preached. He must have been banking for a good old-fashioned martyr's death.

Arduinaldo