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YESTERDAY'S WEATHER—Maximum temperature, 63; minimum temperature, 45; precipitation, trace.

TODAY'S WEATHER—Increasing cloudiness, followed by rain; cooler; southerly winds.

PORTLAND, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1.

A LAPSE IN THE CONSTITUTION.

Some two years ago a correspondent asked The Oregonian what the procedure would be in the case of the death or disability of the President-elect, or of both the President and Vice-President-elect, after the adjournment of the electoral colleges and before March 4. In such a case no provision whatever was made for the succession or for the continuance of the executive subsequent to March 4. This was the way the matter was left by the framers in the original Constitution. In the twelfth amendment, adopted in 1804 and regulating the manner of choosing a President by the House in case of a failure to elect by the people, it is said that if the House does not elect before March 4 the Vice-President "shall act as President, as in case of the death or other constitutional disability of the President." In his article, "The Senate," contributed to the November Scribner, United States Senator Lodge says that this amendment by implication provides for the possibility of the death of the President-elect, but that the case of the death of both the President and Vice-President-elect remains as the Constitution itself originally left it, wholly uncovered. Mr. Lodge adds that if the contingency just mentioned should ever occur, as it well might, "some way out of the grave situation thus created would no doubt be found, but it would have to be extra-constitutional and through an assumption of power by Congress." Senator Lodge thinks the existing lapse in the Constitution is a serious if not perilous omission.

The language of Senator Lodge is none too strong. Our Government was brought face to face with a peril of this sort in the famous Tilden-Hayes Presidential contest of February, 1877. The action of Congress in this case was extra-constitutional. Concerning the Electoral Commission one of the Democratic Senators said: "If Congress has no constitutional power to count the vote and declare the result, how can Congress endow the Electoral Commission with powers which Congress does not possess and cannot exercise itself?" The conundrum was not answered, because it was unanswerable, but the machinery dictated by expediency was patriotically accepted to meet an emergency for which there was no other settlement save civil war and revolution. The American people were only about ten years distant from a great civil war, and they did not propose to be constitutionally damned by confessing they could not peacefully determine who had been elected President, because under the letter of the Constitution the proper mode of procedure for the emergency was not clearly set forth. The common sense, the patriotism, of the American people in both parties prevailed in public approval of an extra-constitutional method of settlement that would probably have wrecked any other constitutional country in the world, unless it be Great Britain, whose constitution is not written like our own, but is a succession of important precedents.

While we bridged the lapse in 1877 by the creation of extra-constitutional machinery, whose count and decision were approved and accepted by Congress and the people, nevertheless it is contrary to sound public policy in the execution of its essential duty of maintaining the existence of the Government without lapse or break for Congress to leave this serious omission without rectification, for the death of both President and Vice-President-elect after the adjournment of the electoral college and before March 4 might come at a time of political excitement when it would not be easy or altogether without danger for Congress to make provision by extra-constitutional action for the succession or for the continuance of the Executive subsequent to March 4. To leave things as they are today is a serious if not perilous omission, and it is a subject for surprise that the thoughtful statesmen of both parties have not long ago enacted some form of procedure to be pursued in event of the death of both President-elect and Vice-President-elect after the adjournment of the electoral college and before the 4th of March. The conclusion of Senator Lodge that any action taken by Congress today would have to be extra-constitutional and through an assumption of power by Congress is approved as sound by all intelligent lawyers who have examined the question.

Of course, in circumstances of National life and death struggle, like that of the Civil War, a constitution cuts really but a subordinate figure. If the South had had clearly the better of the constitutional argument concerning the right of secession and against the Nation's right of armed coercion, it would not have added a bayonet to the armies of either side to the contest, for the rank and file of the North were fighting for a flag, a sentiment, and the unvexed flow of the Mississippi to the sea, while the rank and file of the South were fighting against what they considered was a war of invasion and subjugation on part of the United States. If the Constitution had expressly denied the right of secession and expressly proclaimed the right of coercion, in the circumstances the Civil War would have come and would have been fought out to the last ditch just as it was; for constitutions do not count for much when both sections are bent on fighting. But in ordinary moods of party hostility there is a natural reluctance to travel outside of constitutional procedure, and for this reason there should be no needless lapse or break in our Constitution which may some day force us, perhaps at a bad time, to resort to extra-constitutional action for settlement.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT'S WAY.

Admit that President Roosevelt desires a nomination to the Presidency. Admit that he orders his course so as to appeal to the people for support. It is nevertheless necessary for thinking men to consider the appeal he makes and to decide whether it is deserving of approval or of condemnation. Other men appeal to motives more or less honorable, more or less base. Certainly he has the right to aspire to the nomination. Certainly he can assume from his selection for Vice-President that he is not presuming in his candidacy. What, then, is his appeal? It is faithfully reflected in this paragraph from his comment on the Bristow report:

> No crime calls for sterner reprobation than the crime of the corruptionist in public life, and of the man who seeks to corrupt him. The bribe giver and the bribe taker are equally guilty. Both alike sin against the primary law of the state's safety. All questions of difference in party policy sink into insignificance when the people of this country are brought face to face with a question like this, which lies at the root of honest and decent government. On this question, and on all others like it, we can afford to have no division among good citizens. In the last resort good laws and good administration alike must rest upon the broad basis of sound public opinion. A dull public conscience, an easy-going acquiescence in corruption, infallibly means the ruin of free institutions. Self-government becomes a farce if the representatives of the people corrupt others or are themselves corrupted. Freedom is not a gift which will tarry long in the hands of the dishonest or those so foolish or so incompetent as to tolerate dishonesty in their public servants. Under our system all power comes from the people, and all punishment rests ultimately with the people. The toleration of the wrong, not the exposure of the wrong, is the real offense.

The question, therefore, is whether the people of the United States care enough for the principle of honesty in public life to stand by the man who puts his trust in their loyalty to righteousness. We know the arts of the politician. We know how favoritism and patronage and corporation influence are supreme in so many places. We have seen how official life is sometimes steeped even in corruption of the deepest dye. Is there anything else which at this time so sharply challenges the attention of the thoughtful or calls upon the activity of the well-disposed? Is there any question of tariff, or currency, or the dependencies, or offices, which transcends the importance of standing in this critical conflict between right and wrong for the expression and maintenance of integrity in the public service? Can we afford as a Nation to turn our backs upon the man who has had the courage to brave the intrenched forces of favoritism and greed, and the faith to anchor his hopes in an American loyalty to righteousness?

A NEW THEORY.

The rapid development of theories regarding the cause, prevention and cure of consumption is claiming the attention of intelligent people the world over. The one point upon which investigating physicians and bacteriologists seem generally to agree is that stated by Dr. Koch, that consumption is not an inherited disease, and that it is communicable and preventible. Beyond this there is a wide divergence of opinion. Almost startling in its originality as well as in the theory stated is the recent declaration of Professor von Behring, a noted German specialist, regarding the origin of the disease. Accepting the announcement of Dr. Koch that consumption is not an inherited malady as a scientific fact, he challenges the correctness of the theories as to its cause and infectious character. He declares that it is not ordinarily infectious and is not acquired by inhaling germs in the air; that it is not communicable to adults from cattle through milk or meat, but that "it is conveyed during infancy through mother's milk," and that about 90 per cent of persons over 30 years of age have the germs in their bodies and consume the germs daily.

Professor von Behring supports his contention as regards the lodgment of the germs in infancy by the statement that the infant stomach has not the same power of digesting the germs that the stomach of the older person possesses. In the infantile body the bacteria find a favorable lodging place in which they ordinarily remain quiescent until the body stops growing, when they take on new life. There really seems to the ordinary mind but slight basis of probability in this theory. In fact, it would seem to be almost pure speculation in a realm of contending ideas in which one theory is as good as another and all are as yet practically unproven. It is something to be assured and to rest in the assurance that consumption is not an inherited disease. A great point is gained in this admission—a point from which thousands will work with renewed courage toward the prevention and cure of the disease. Beyond this, all is doubt.

A plain deduction from Professor von Behring's theory, as to the germs of the disease being planted in infancy, is that weak or consumptive mothers should not nurse their infants and that consumption might eventually be stamped out, its chain of continuity having first been broken, by feeding infants upon carefully sterilized food. The world will perhaps be slow to accept a theory so contrary to the provision made by nature for the nurture of infants, but until healthy mothers become the rule instead of the exception it might be well to take into consideration the possibility that underlies the theory of vitiated mother's milk as the great first cause of consumption.

WHY THEY ARE INCONSOLABLE.

Suppose that the United States should now turn its back on Panama, accept the Colombian offer of free right of way for the canal and help Colombia to conquer the republic we have just recognized—what would the antis say? It is easy to construct their complaint. By this act, we can hear them say, the Administration at Washington has consistently perpetuated the policy of perfidy. It has encouraged the sturdy little Republic of Panama and now at the first sign of trouble it turns tail and ignominiously leaves it to its fate. What it should have done was to stand firmly by Panama and send the Colombian blackmailers off about their business.

Now, it is not to be supposed that the antis will find it in their hearts to commend the Administration for following the course they would have declared for if it had done differently. They will conjure up some carping criticism, precisely on a par with their previous discontent. But the simple fact is that at no time has the Administration had any alternative to which it could turn without incurring graver censure than the antis have been able to invent. Panama has been independent of Colombia throughout a good portion of her history. A fresh revolt was only a question of time, and the inevitable occasion came when the Colombian Senate rejected the Hay-Herran treaty. The blow was struck, and it was up to us to act.

Suppose that with knowledge of the impending revolution the United States had remained inert, gathered no force at the isthmus and sat supinely by while Panama was ravaged by civil war, massacres and general riot—does any one suppose that the antis would have failed to denounce the Administration for its folly and inaction? Suppose that we had denied Panama the right of recognition and had aided Colombia to subdue her—should we not most certainly have had vehement protests against our alleged irregularity and cruelty?

The real objection of the antis to the Administration's course is that it tends to bring the canal to pass. Vigor and effectiveness are unpardonable sins in the lexicon of anti-ism. Allied to this is the "craven fear of being great." Whatever makes the Nation strong and undertakings and Anglo-Saxon ideals must be deprecated. This is why the anti mourns and will not be comforted. This is why he chooses to treat the Colombian pirates as high-minded gentlemen entitled to every consideration.

THE ASTOR LAND INSTINCT.

Mr. W. W. Astor, great-grandson of the founder of the Astor fortune in this country, recently gave an account of the beginnings of this wealth in the fur trade. Good as the fur business was in the early years of the past century, when John Jacob Astor pushed it across the continent and around the Horn to the Columbia River, the sagacious old German decided that land was a safe investment for its earnings. Acting upon this idea, he secured holdings in real estate in New York City that remain to this day the substantial basis of the Astor millions. Of this fact in detail Mr. Astor says:

> At the beginning of the century he commenced buying plots of land on New York Island, having an early prescience of the growth of the city. These purchases were made with such judgment as frequently to be sold again after a few years for double or treble what he had paid for them. With enlarged means these acquisitions of real estate assumed larger proportions, and took in whole farms, which gradually became covered with houses. To show that this species of farming as practiced with discrimination was not in vain, it may be mentioned that one of these farms, purchased in 1811 for $4500, is now worth, with improvements, $7,000,000.

A good judge of values, a shrewd calculator of possibilities, John Jacob Astor continued to turn land over, so to speak, with his wits until at his death in 1848 his estate was worth $20,000,000 and its foundation was the ground itself. It was then divided, but so steady and substantial has been the increase of land values in New York that when John Jacob, grandson of the founder, died in 1900 his share had reached the estimated sum of $100,000,000. This policy of land investment that has proved so remunerative has been continued by the present generation—the fourth from the founder of the Astor fortune—with steadily increasing accumulations.

The history of the Astor millions shows the enormous possibilities in land investment when joined with conditions that favor them. The conditions in this case were exceptionally favorable, and the foresight of John Jacob Astor was unusually keen. The combination could hardly fail to be effective in building up a fortune. That Mr. Astor could make financial and business mistakes is shown in the loss that followed the tremendous effort that he put forth in pushing his fur trade across the continent and around the Horn to the Columbia River. But he made no mistake when he invested in land in and about New York, and his land investment policy, pursued by his descendants, has resulted in founding a fortune that is not subject to the fluctuations of stocks or threatened by industrial depression or labor troubles.

PORTAGE ACT MUST STAND.

When the Oregon Legislature meets three weeks from yesterday it will find the people of the state in very strong temper against the proposed repeal of the appropriation for a state portage railroad around the dalles of the Columbia. The members from Multnomah County will be particularly subject to strenuous representations on the subject from the commercial bodies of Portland. The Legislature should heed this conviction and desire of the people. The act must stand.

It is unnecessary at this time, and perhaps unwise, to repeat The Oregonian's doubts as to the effectiveness of the portage measure, or its suggestion that an open river might be most truly advanced by diversion of the $165,000 or some portion of it to purchase right of way for the Government canal with locks. We incline to accept the judgment of those who have investigated the problem, to the effect that efforts be now concentrated upon retention of the act unaltered. If any unforeseen development should occur in the meantime, the Legislature meets again a year from January and whatever becomes necessary by that time can be done.

There is, then, no present choice but repeal of the law or its retention, and on that head there is but one opinion for every citizen who is loyal to the welfare of Oregon. That is against the repeal. The portage road, if completed in two years, will long antedate the completion of the Government canal, and it can be operated for six or ten years while the canal is building, inasmuch as the canal can be constructed in sections, so as not to interfere with portage traffic. Any member of the Legislature who votes or moves for repeal of this law will be a marked man in Oregon for a generation; for if the repeal should prevail, the remedy it carries will be indefinitely delayed and the burdens it aims to unloose will be bound yet more firmly upon the backs of our producers and consumers. It is the one ray of light in a dark night. Who sets his foot upon that flickering candle will only light for himself the fires of unavailing regret.

The history of industrial changes in the present century cannot fail to give a large place to the present rapid advance in the use of concrete for a great variety of purposes. The Railway Age, in describing the large and handsome concrete bridge recently built over the Neckar, and the "delicacy and grace" of bridges of this material, notes that at this moment "an armored concrete building is under construction at Cincinnati; the concrete crosstie is more than an experiment; concrete foundations for signalling appliances are in general use; smokestacks of concrete are no longer novelties, and plans are being drawn for a monolithic arched viaduct which will be 250 feet high, with spans of 100 feet. In each of these instances masonry has successfully entered a field which until very recently seemed to belong peculiarly to wood or steel. This is not difficult to understand, when we consider that concrete is not susceptible to any known form of decay or deterioration through the attacks of frost, oxygen, fungi or smoke gases. It therefore appeals strongly to the sense of permanency." The use of Portland cement does not involve employment of skilled labor, which has become expensive. The cement itself is easily made of clay and limestone wherever fuel is cheap. In construction, besides rough molds, "concrete requires, in addition to cement, only some broken stone or gravel and sand. The mixing is a most simple process and the tools necessary for its installation are a wheelbarrow, a shovel and a stick of wood."

A recent Consular report tells of the opening in London of a technical school, under an efficient corps of instructors, to teach the most improved methods of carrying on the leather business. This will include practical instruction in tanning, currying, leather dressing, staining and finishing. The effort is no doubt made for the purpose of supplying the market with English tanned leather to the exclusion of the foreign product, of which the importations are heavy. The United States exports annually a very large bulk of leather, and the United Kingdom is its best market, both for sole and upper leather. The new technical school in London has therefore a commercial significance the effect of which may in a few years be felt upon our leather export trade. There is but one way to meet a commercial and industrial fact of this kind. Our leather-workers must see to it that the product of their labor and skill is the best of its kind. In other words, they must make leather that in point of excellence and reliability is hard to equal and impossible to excel. It is very difficult to close a market against first-class goods.

A long life of industry and enterprise closed yesterday when Captain Joseph Kellogg, the pioneer steamboatman, passed over to the great beyond. The important part which he played in the early development of water transportation in Oregon and Washington assures for his name a lasting place in the history of the commonwealth. For more than fifty years he was actively engaged in the management and operation of steamboats and other craft on the Willamette and Columbia Rivers. Portland was a "mud landing" on the route from Oregon City to Astoria when Captain Kellogg began steamboating here, and his numerous transportation enterprises since that time have all contributed in a measure in changing that mud landing into a city of over 100,000 inhabitants. Captain Kellogg was a man of sterling worth and untiring energy, and his work as one of the builders of the state will not soon be forgotten.

Among recent deaths is that of General George H. Stewart, a Brigadier-General in the Confederate Army during the Civil War. He was a graduate of West Point in 1848, and was captured with his entire brigade by General Hancock's famous charge at Spottsylvania, May 12, 1864. General Hancock, who had known him in the old Army, courteously greeted him and offered his hand. Stewart declined, saying that "under the circumstances he could not accept it." Hancock answered, "Under no other circumstances would I have offered it." General Stewart was in his 77th year at the time of his death, and came of a distinguished Maryland family. He led the assault of Johnson's division on Culp's Hill the second day at Gettysburg.

The public has barely recovered from nervous prostration induced by the question "How old is Ann?" Now comes the Philadelphia Inquirer with the following international puzzle: "Colombia owes England and Germany a large sum of money. When the debt was contracted, Panama was part of Colombia. If the United States gives Panama $10,000,000, what proportion of this sum is Panama bound to pay to Colombia's debtors, and how are they to collect the same?" Echo answers, "How?"

Captain Carter's term of imprisonment has ended, the public memory has been refreshed by a synopsis of the events that led to his incarceration at Fort Leavenworth for five years, and he has gone forth as free as a man may who carries with him the stigma of dishonesty. His alleged associates in swindling the Government are still undergoing voluntary exile in Canada.

An Iowa man has gone crazy over breakfast foods. If he had been a manufacturer instead of merely a deluded sampler of these foods, a long-suffering public would be avenged. Under the sad circumstances, however, it can only sympathize with the unfortunate creature who in the foolish endeavor to find the best among the widely advertised "foods," went stark mad.

MODERN READING OF THE BIBLE

New York Sun.

"I am told," said President Butler, of Columbia University, at the Unitarian Club dinner on Thursday evening, "that the Bible Society sold many more Bibles this year than the year before, but I want to know what becomes of them," for "the young people, even the young men who go to college, know very little about them."

If President Butler should read the vast mass of correspondence on questions of religion which comes to this office in a steady stream, he would discover in it a familiarity with the Bible which demonstrates that throughout this country there are still multitudes of people who know very much about the Book. This familiarity, we observe, is displayed as much by infidels as by believers, and among the number are obviously people of the younger generation no less than of the older.

Generally, however, the attitude of these writers toward the Bible is very different from that of former times. It is critical rather than devotional, even among most of those who undertake the defense of religious faith against infidelity, and thus it indicates how profound and widespread has been the influence of the so-called "higher criticism" on the religious thought of this period. The use of the Bible as a final and indisputable authority on all religious questions seems to be confined to the older generation of professional and amateur theologians, and the assumption of the axiomatic truth of religious dogmas is made almost invariably by Roman Catholics only.

Dr. Patton, of Princeton, in contending for the fundamental dogmas of Christianity as essential to its preservation as a religion is unquestionably logical, but, so far as our correspondence indicates, and as is indicated also by the present strongest drift of sentiment in Protestant pulpits and theological seminaries, he has little support from contemporary Protestant conviction. Dr. Patton's position that without miracles, without a miraculous supernatural basis, Christianity falls to the ground and becomes a mere system of moral philosophy, is indisputable; yet even among our religious correspondents we find that usually the miracles of the Bible are abandoned as facts and relegated to a legendary domain where they take their place along with the stories of the mythologies.

It is not that the Bible is no longer read, but that it is read in a new spirit; not as a revelation from God, but as a production to be tested on its merits in the light of scientific analysis and criticism. As a consequence of that manner of approach, the Bible probably produces far less impression on the thought of this generation than on any since the advent of Christianity. Its language is no longer enshrined in the popular memory as the words of God himself. In the English Parliament and in political speeches here we do not now find displayed the close familiarity with the language of Scripture which once was so nearly invariable. Its influence in English literature is no longer so readily observable as it was formerly, even so lately as a single generation ago.

Even Roman Catholics, laymen, it is true, write to us in a tone of ridicule of certain of the Biblical miracles—of the flood, and of Jonah in the whale's belly, for example—as manifestly impossible occurrences; yet, of course, if one miracle is to be thrown out because of its impossibility under natural law the whole body of the supernatural evidences of religion must be cast aside also. Dr. Patton is right; without miracles, without dogmas, Christianity has no standing as a religion. The people who ridicule the flood and Jonah's miraculous escape are on the sure road to total infidelity, whether they are Catholics or Protestants in their nominal religious attachment. They reject the essential basis of supernaturalism.

The neglect of Biblical reading is not the cause of the trouble, but the new spirit in which the Bible is read, and not only by the young and frivolous, but also in the pulpit and the theological seminary. As the Word of God the Bible influenced profoundly the every-day speech of our race, but when it is studied as merely the word of man its very language no longer remains imbedded in the popular memory as a unique heritage from Heaven itself.

WASHINGTON WITH OREGON.

To Stand Together in Support of the Lewis and Clark Exposition.

Seattle Post-Intelligencer.

Senator Mitchell, of Oregon, is an old hand at the work and understands thoroughly how to set the machinery in motion to accomplish any result at which he aims. A few days since he gave a dinner party in Washington, attended by members of both houses, the ostensible purpose of which was to introduce his new colleague, Senator Fulton. At the psychological moment the matter of the Lewis and Clark Exposition came up, and the banquet shortly turned into a love feast on behalf of that project, substantially all of those present pledging themselves to aid to the extent of their powers the passage of the bill introduced by Senator Mitchell, making a suitable national appropriation in aid of the Exposition.

It is quite safe to say that Senator Mitchell is now fully prepared to attend to the Senate end of the matter; and that what work remains to be done is in the House, a House which at the present time is none too easy to influence on behalf of any extraordinary appropriations. Washington has a larger numerical representation in the House than has Oregon, and therefore has slightly more influence. The delegations from the Other Pacific Coast States are friendly to the project. It remains for the Washington delegation to earnestly co-operate with the Oregon members of both Houses of Congress in aid of the Exposition appropriation, a matter of as much substantial interest to Washington as it is to Oregon.

The people of Washington look to their delegation to do this, and it is to be hoped that they will not be disappointed.

Curiosities of Literature.

New York Sun.

Wordsworth had just dashed off "We Are Seven."

"That may do very well for poetry," he confided, "but the real truth was that the cook wouldn't stand so many in the family."

Feeling the poet's mission was to cheer, he withheld this blighting information.

Byron was piping a lay to Greece.

"What a blunder!" cried his friends; "why don't you lay a pipe to oil?"

Realizing that he might have been a multimillionaire, he wept for the lost opportunity.

Virgil was singing of Arms and of the Man.

"Yes," he admitted, "it was a great mistake. It should have been of Hoofs and of the Girl."

Sadly he perceived that he had disqualified himself for the Horse Show.

Sweet Are the Uses.

Omaha Bee.

Oregon is to have an extra session of its Legislature to deal with the tax problem. Every time Nebraska sees a sister state in that sort of struggle it feels like extending the hand of sympathy.

Tact.

Harvard Lampoon.

I went to a party with Janet,
And met with an awful mishap,
For I awkwardly emptied a cuptul
Of chocolate into her lap.

But Janet was cool—though it wasn't—
For none is so tactful as she,
And, smiling with perfect composure,
Said, sweetly, "The drinks are on me."

BRAVE FIGHTERS NOT GRAFTERS

St. Paul Pioneer Press.

The probability of General Wood's taking part in any such grafting scheme cannot be admitted. There is no necessary connection between official honesty on the one hand and on the other conspicuous gallantry, exceptional military capacity, and unflinching patriotism such as General Wood showed in the terrible campaign against Geronimo and in Cuba. A brave and intelligent soldier and patriot may be a grafter, but he is not likely to be. Such services as those of General Wood in Cuba and in the Geronimo campaign—services for which he was repeatedly and insistently singled out for praise in the reports of his superiors—at least entitle him to a suspension of judgment on charges brought by such men as Rathbone and the riffraff that has been before the committee. And there is a very close and necessary connection between official integrity and such remarkable administrative results as those of General Wood at Santiago and Havana. The regeneration of Santiago and of the whole island was an administrative feat seldom equaled, which won the encomiums even of experienced British observers. To a grafter or any one not guided by the single good of his wards such results would have been impossible. The probability of his belying so splendid a public record must be confessed to be slight when it is borne in mind that not until he had the misfortune to come into collision with those engaged in the postal frauds was there one hint of corruption. Moreover, it is significant that with all the jealousy which his advancement has provoked and with all the enemies which his energetic insistence on decency made him there have been found only two or three matters that can even be distorted to "look bad." Carl Schurz or Samuel J. Tilden would be about as likely to violate his official conscience for a silver dinner set as General Wood. To say nothing of its sponsors, the very character of the story makes it incredible.

That Letter From Roosevelt.

Review of Reviews.

(Personal.)

White House, Washington,
October —, 1903.

My Dear Congressman:—

The statement alleged to have been made by the inspector that I "ordered" the indictment of — —, or any one else, is a lie—just as much a lie as if it had been stated that I ordered that any one should not be indicted. My directions have been explicit, and are explicit now. Any one who is guilty is to be prosecuted with the utmost rigor of the law, and no one who is not guilty is to be touched. I care not a rap for the political or social influence of any human being when the question is one of his guilt or innocence in such a matter as the corruption of the government service.

I note what you say, that the circulation of this report about me may alienate the support of many of —'s friends from my administration. Frankly, I feel that any one who would believe such a story must be either lacking in intelligence, or else possessed of malignant credulity. If any one is to be alienated from me by the fact that I direct the prosecution of Republican or Democrat, without regard to his political or social standing, when it appears that he is guilty of gross wrong doing—why, all I can say is, let him be alienated.

If District Attorney — has anything which should be known to the attorney-general or to me as regards this suit, I should be delighted to see him. But, frankly, I have not the slightest desire to see him if his visit is to be in the interest "of the welfare of the party," or of my "success." In a case like this, where the crime charged is one that strikes at the foundations of the commonwealth, I should hold myself unfit for this office if I considered for one moment either my own welfare, or the interest of the party, or anything else except the interests of justice. Respectfully,

THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

Nagging the President.

New York Evening Post.

What is the meaning of the "policy of pin-pricks" to which Mr. Roosevelt is just now being so ostentatiously subjected by Republican Senators? Several of them seem bent on mortifying and exasperating him in every way possible. Hanna vies with Platt in deftly planting banderillas between his shoulders, and then skipping out of his way. The action of the Senate in coolly proposing to permit the extra session to close with nothing done, fits in with the same theory of a conspiracy of nagging being afoot. It is easy to see how Senator Platt presses the appeal. New York is a highly doubtful state. Moreover, Hanna emissaries are at work there. Of course, Platt is doing all he can to hold the state for Roosevelt, but he needs help. He fears that his Albany machine is broken down again by the defection of another State Senator. Governor Odell says that he is for Roosevelt, but the President, it is well known, "does not trust Odell." How could he trust a man who made a better Governor than himself? The upshot of all is to prove the need of strengthening Platt with more patronage. Quay also may speedily need the President's help to prevent Philadelphia from being reformed. We may be sure that Senators, in all their apparent dead set at the President, do not forget the law of their being. If they can frighten or worry him into giving them more places for distribution where they will do the most good, their doubts about the wisdom of Mr. Roosevelt's nomination, or the possibility of his re-election, will quietly disappear.

The Senatorial Lions.

New York Evening Post.

Senator Lodge spoke reassuringly yesterday on the Newlands resolution for the annexation of Cuba. He deplored the fact that Senatorial observations and resolutions were taken so seriously. Really, these mere expressions of opinion, "read twice and referred," are insignificant, but yet are calculated when violent to alarm interested parties. While on this theme of studied moderation Mr. Lodge recalled the time "when the flag of Spain went back to Europe, where I hope, in the fulness of time, all European flags will return." Such a hope might possibly give offense to England, not to mention minor colonial powers on the Western Hemisphere, had not the junior Senator from Massachusetts previously explained that among Senators these little flings do not count. As he addressed this pious hope of their colonial dissolution to the sister nations he followed an illustrious precedent, saying virtually for himself and his colleagues:

> You, ladies, you (whose gentle hearts do fear
> The smallest monstrous mouse that creeps on floor),
> May now perchance both quake and tremble here,
> When Lion rough in wildest rage doth roar.
> Then know that I one Snug the Joiner am
> A Lion fell, nor else no Lion's dam;
> For if I should as Lion come in strife,
> Into this place, 't were pity of my life.

John D. Forever.

Chicago Record-Herald.

When other Morgans and new Schwabs
Shall come along to sell
Their watered stock in ample gobs
And "do" the suckers well,
They may perhaps succeed a while,
But soon or late we'll see
Them very deftly rounded up
By our old friend, John D.—
Their goods, at last, will all be found
Belonging to John D.

New men arise in wondrous style
With pretty schemes whereby
They loom up for a little while
Before the public eye;
But soon or late and one and all,
Whoever they may be,
We find they but contribute to
The power of John D.—
They come and go, but nothing stops
Our dear old friend, John D.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

Literary Notes.

"The Wings of the Morning" is not a sequel to "The Long Night."

"The Circle in the Square" is not a bad story. This is on the square and also on the level.

Kipling's last book has been parodied under the title of the "Five Notions," which seems to allow him five more notions than were in his book.

Critics of Morley's "Life of Gladstone" have a great deal to say concerning Morley, but Gladstone is a very unimportant figure, indeed. Of course, he's dead and a live dog——

The "Memoirs of M. de Blowitz" might have been more accurately described as the Blowings of M. de Memoryitz.

The "Voice of the Scholar" is what Dr. Jordan calls his latest book. Everyone admits that he has a voice, and some people that he is a scholar.

Tennyson's suppressed poems are being published in one of our leading magazines. Their suppression was sensible, but their resurrection can benefit no one except the person paid for the article.

"The Chasm" has a good opening.

Contrary to general opinion, Mr. Merwin's latest novel, "The Whip Hand," has nothing to say about mothers-in-law.

"The Way to the West," by Emerson Hough, has no paragraph at the end advising those desirous of further information to address the general passenger agent of any road.

Thomas Bailey Aldrich's "Ponkapog Papers" does not describe a new variation of ping-pong.

Ach, Louie!

> Do you see the flakes of snow that fell a year ago?
> Or the roses that were blossoming in June?
> When the singers' voices die, can you hear the music sigh?
> Can you catch the magic air the pine trees croon?
>
> You may see those flakes of snow, and behold those roses blow,
> And hear the strains the singers' voices pour,
> You may learn the fairy tune that the swaying pine trees croon,
> But you'll never see Lou Cohen any more.

Islands are almost as easy to collect as stamps.

Chicago may be proud of her desperadoes, who are of the type that contribute articles to "Success."

The Iowa man who went insane through eating breakfast foods very appropriately talks in broken sentences.

Senator Morgan says that war is a passion with Colombia. Blood-letting is the best of cures for passions.

Attorney-General Knox possibly appoints his men with some regard for the old saying about the best persons to catch thieves.

The ruffian that tried to kick "Uncle Billy" Kilbourn to death would make a fine ornament on a Baker City telegraph pole.

The English are surprised to find Mr. Bryan a taciturn person. They probably took American papers too seriously, and expected to find their visitor spouting night and day.

Panama has developed the expansion fever in the shortest time on record. Born in 20 minutes, she plans the annexation or assimilation or deglutition, or whatever they call it down there, of a couple of Caribbean islands. Evidently the tropical baby is weaned early, and seeks strong meat at a time that less precocious infants cry for pap.

Commenting on his first meeting with James McNeill Whistler, Mark Twain, according to the Argonaut, is reported as saying: "I was introduced to Mr. Whistler in his studio in London. I had heard that the painter was an incorrigible joker, and I was determined to get the better of him, if possible. So at once I put on my most hopelessly stupid air, and I drew near the canvas that Mr. Whistler was completing. 'That ain't bad,' I said; 'it ain't bad, only here in this corner'—and I made as if to rub out a cloud effect with my finger. 'I'd do away with that cloud if I was you.' Whistler cried, nervously: 'Gad, sir, be careful there. Don't you see the paint is not dry?' 'Oh, that don't matter,' said I; 'I've got my gloves on.' We got on well together after that."

The new hereditary carver in Scotland to King Edward, and one of the greatest dignitaries of his court north of the Tweed, is the 12-months-old son of Sir Wyndham Carmichael Anstruther, says the Philadelphia Record. It is like a chapter out of one of Sir Walter Scott's novels to read the account of the funeral of this young chieftain baron, who was famous in hunting circles, and who was buried last week, at the early age of 26, to the sound of dirges wailed by his pipers. His little son inherits the honor of being carver to the King. Like his father, he is a descendant of that beautiful and unfortunate Mary Carmichael, maid of honor to Mary, Queen of Scots, whose pathetic lament is so well known in the ballad of "The Queen's Marys." Romance could scarcely find a family richer in history that ever makes for the glory of tradition than these Anstruthers. They have been crusaders and soldiers and favorites of Kings, but of all their territorial distinctions they have prized above all their ancestress' name.

WEX. J.

OUT OF THE GINGER JAR.

"Does your daughter's husband love her as devotedly as ever?" "He does when I'm around," replied her daughter's husband's mother-in-law grimly.—Houston Post.

Clara—Do you think there is any chance of his asking me to marry him? Maud—Yes; I never saw a man yet who wouldn't make a fool of himself.—Detroit Free Press.

"Dis world ain't square," growled little Micky. "Why not?" asked Jimmy. "'Cause the only ones dat get free peanuts are elephants and policemen."—Chicago News.

Guest—I understand this club has a rule that there shall be no feeing the waiters. Waiter—Yes, sir; but we never think of reporting when the rule is broken.—Town Topics.

He—Carrie, I fear that in Harry Sweetser I have a rival in your affections. She—Nonsense! You have no need to let that disturb you; Harry is the only man I care anything about.—Boston Transcript.

"The doctor says I must take some massage treatment to limber up the muscles of my neck." "Massage nothing! Come down to the theater at 5 o'clock and watch the matinee girls come out."—Houston Post.

Small Tommy—The teacher wanted to box my ears this morning. Grandma—How do you know he did? Small Tommy—'Cause he wouldn't have boxed them if he hadn't wanted to.—Chicago Journal.

"You should remember that you are the servant of the people." "I do remember it," answered Senator Sorghum. "And I don't believe that my occasional perquisites are proportionately any larger than those exacted by my own domestic employes."—Washington Star.