

BLAINE'S IDEAS.

A special to the S. F. Examiner from Washington, dated February 11, says:

"Recently Congressman Milliken of Maine and his cousin, Seth Milliken of New York, who is a large manufacturer and has investments in the south, called on Mr. Blaine on private business. During the conversation the merchant asked him if he was in favor of the annexation of Canada. Mr. Milliken says that Mr. Blaine replied that he was, but that he did not think it would be brought about by agitation. In the course of time he thought the dominion would naturally gravitate into the American union.

"Canada," said Mr. Blaine, "is like an apple on a tree, just beyond our reach. We may strive to grasp it, but the bough recedes from our hold just in proportion to our effort to catch on to it. Let it alone and in due time it will fall into our hands.

"If we were reaching after territory to increase our wealth and strength, as well also to protect the health of the nation, I should say that Cuba is the outlying island which the interests of the United States would naturally seek. First, as to its relation to health, Cuba is the natural home of pestilential diseases, especially yellow fever. Under the direction of our eminent sanitarians I have not the slightest doubt that the existing cause of this dread disease could be exterminated from every foot of the territory of Cuba. Knowledge which science invokes as to the propagation of the germs of yellow fever has put it in the power of health officers, well provided with means, to remove the breeding spots from the face of the earth. I have not the least doubt but what it could be done were the island under our control.

"In point of economy it would be cheaper for the United States to buy the island from Spain at almost any cost rather than it should be a constant menace to the health and prosperity of the southern states. The cost, directly and indirectly, to the business of the country during the last yellow fever epidemic in the Mississippi valley was greater than the value of Cuba, even if you put it on a mere money basis, but when you consider the peril to life which the fever constantly brings, its purchase would not be dear at any price.

"The next object which makes it valuable is its relation to the United States as a strategic point. It lies close, very close, to the southern extremity of Florida. In this way it practically controls the gulf of Mexico.

"It actually commands positions which we ought, in the natural order of things, to possess and control. In regard to its contribution to our wealth, Cuba, in the hands of the Yankee people, and by that I mean the thrifty, energetic, inventive American race, would add immensely to our prosperity. It is a fertile island and under the control of skilled labor its productive resources would doubtless be increased a hundred fold."

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