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PATRIOTISM AND INSANITY.

Between patriotism and insanity there is—ought to be—some distinction. To be a patriot is a great and glorious desideratum; but to be insane is an appalling calamity, indicating the need of immediate and effectual restraint. While nearly every one will entertain a feeling of the utmost sorrow for the mentally unbalanced, at the same time the ordinary run of people are anxious to have the crazy man confined where his eccentricities will not interfere with the rights and liberties of those whose mental equilibrium is not disturbed.

Because of the fact that patriotism has been more or less generally regarded as one form of insanity on such occasions as the Fourth of July, there has been widespread demand all over the republic for laws that will curb the prevailing desire to go to extremes in celebrating. In many of the larger cities the municipal authorities have laid down rigid regulations, and speedy punishment has overtaken those who neglected to observe them. The cities which have adopted stringent rules have taken a long stride in the right direction, and eventually, should the example be followed, the annual death and injury of several thousands of persons will be stopped.

No one who advocates reform along this line does so through lack of patriotic sentiment. Quite to the contrary, it is the contention that patriotism should not be practical license to jeopardize the lives of celebrants and others. Five thousand people were killed and injured in the United States last Fourth, many of them little children. Is it necessary that this yearly sacrifice should be made to commemorate the signing of the declaration of independence? If the death rate continues, it will not be long until the loss of life incident to celebration will exceed the number of soldiers killed in the revolutionary war. So the demand has gone up for a "same Fourth."

The "insane" employ different methods of arriving at similar results. We have the daring fellow who holds lighted firecrackers in his hand. The hand belongs to him, and he has probably paid for the firecrackers, but does it follow that he should be permitted to risk his own personal safety and that of those who stand admiringly by? Then we have the criminally idiotic individual who throws lighted crackers and bombs from doorways. This brainless fellow intends that the death-dealing missiles shall explode in the street, but it too frequently happens that the bomb explodes instead on the sidewalk and causes the death or injury of some unsuspecting bystander. The man whose carelessness results in death or injury to others is criminally responsible, but is a law which permits such conduct to be regarded as complete? The celebrant who hurls a torpedo and destroys the eyesight of some passerby is genuinely sorry, no doubt, when the consequence of his act is apparent, but will sorrow restore the sight? It is to be regretted that several hundred children die each year of lockjaw following injury on the Fourth, but we have yet to hear of the manufacturer who went out of business because his stock in trade was annually levying a tribute of flesh and blood.

The council killed its firecracker ordinance because the Fourth was approaching (!) some weeks since, but at that time a sort of promise was made that immediately after the Fourth a new bill would be introduced that would require more general consideration for the safety of Astorians on the nation's natal day. The promise should be kept. The new bill ought to provide severe punishment for any person who explodes a bomb or firecracker on a sidewalk, and torpedoes should be entirely abolished. As new forms of explosives make their appearance, the ordinance should be amended so as to include them in its proscription. There's a way to curtail our patriotic death rate, and municipal bodies will fail of their duty if they neglect to employ it.

THE MONARCH OF COLORADO.

The Colorado supreme court, by a majority opinion, upheld the revolutionary act of Governor Peabody and his military satellites in imprisoning in

bullpens and deporting men not convicted or even specifically accused of any crime, but from this decision Justice Steel of that court has filed a notable dissenting opinion, the gist of which may be gathered from the following extracts:

"If the present executive is the sole judge of the conditions which can call into action the military power of the government, and can exercise all means necessary to effectually abate the conditions, and the judicial department cannot inquire into the legality of his acts, the next governor may by his akase exercise the same arbitrary power. If the military authority may deport the miners this year it can deport the farmers next year.

"If a strike which is not a rebellion must be so regarded because the governor says it is, then any condition must be regarded as a rebellion which the governor declares to be such; and if any condition must be regarded as a rebellion because the governor says, so, then any county in the state may be declared to be in a state of rebellion, whether a rebellion exists or not, and every citizen subjected to arbitrary arrest and detention at the will and pleasure of the head of the executive department. We may then, with each succeeding change in the executive branch of the government, have class arrayed against class, and interest against interest, and we shall depend for our liberty, not upon the constitution, but upon the grace and favor of the governor and his military subordinates.

"In no other case presented to this court have principles so important and far-reaching been involved. . . . The court has evaded the fundamental questions presented, and has based its decision upon theories long ago determined by juries and statesmen to be illogical and false."

The questions involved, Justice Steele said, "strike at the very foundation of our government;" and the opinion of the majority of the court, he declared, "establishes a precedent that is so repugnant to my notions of civil liberty, so antagonistic to my ideas of a republican form of government, and so shocking to my sense of propriety and justice, that I cannot properly characterize it."

In Colorado, as in Oregon, three justices comprise the supreme court, and the other two united in an opinion sustaining the acts of the governor and his military chief, says the Journal, commenting briefly on the dissenting opinion.

The late Justice Thayer, then of the supreme court of Oregon, once delivered a characteristic dissenting opinion, upon which a witty lawyer, who like almost everybody else perceived that he had completely upset the false theories and illogical conclusions of the other two, remarked:

"Thayer is right, but two deuces always beat a lone ace." Colorado needs to discard one of its judicial deuces at the first opportunity, and draw another ace.

OUR TRADE WITH JAPAN.

The statistics set forth in a pamphlet prepared by the department of commerce and labor, showing that the commerce between the United States and Japan for eleven months of the present fiscal year amounted to \$67,000,000, is gratifying as far as it goes. That record has never been equalled before even for a full fiscal year. The nearest approach thereto was in 1903, when our trade with the Island Empire for a full year aggregated \$65,000,000.

There is danger, however, of exaggerating the significance of this increased commerce with Japan. That country has long expected to be engaged in hostilities with Russia and, accordingly, she has long been making extensive preparations therefor. During the current fiscal year she has been a large purchaser of American products, especially flour and preserved meats, for the use of her army and navy; and naturally this has given a fillip to our exports to that country. To what extent that has been the case may be partly gathered from the fact that Japan, in the present fiscal year, has imported American cotton to the value of less than \$3,000,000, whereas her imports of that staple in 1900 amounted to \$13,000,000 in value.

It is to be noted, too, that about 70 per cent of our trade with Japan consists of imports from that country. For the eleven months ended with May last our imports from Japan amounted to \$44,400,000, while our exports to her people, although exceptionally heavy, amounted to only \$22,600,000. Furthermore, the great bulk of these imports was admitted free of duty. Of the \$65,000,000 of trade that we did with Japan in 1903 more than \$28,000,000 consisted of free imports into this country—the dutiable imports amounting to only \$16,000,000.

Still, it is undeniable that Japan's consumption of American products has been swiftly increasing of late. From 1894 to 1902 our exports to Japan increased from \$4,000,000 to \$21,500,000, and when it is remembered that Japan's total imports for 1902 amounted to only \$135,000,000, this showing must be regarded as distinctly encouraging. Whether the mikado's subjects will continue to increase their consumption of American commodities when her struggle with Russia shall have come to an end, will probably depend largely to what extent that conflict may for a time cripple her purchasing power.

CONSTIPATION

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 Mrs. L. J. ROOT,
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Feb. 12, 1898.

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