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SATURDAY - JANUARY 15, 1898

**THE YAWP OF DAVID.**

Men with good memories, and who are the sort that delve into the obscurities of mugwumpian lore, remember that in 1892, or thereabouts, a person known to folly as David A. Wells published in a free trade magazine an article under the head of "Death in the Pot." Death was taken to mean shoddy, and the pot was the McKinley bill. That bill placed a high, and all but prohibitory, duty on shoddy, and moderately protective duties on wools. David truly described shoddy to be the product of rags cast off by lepers and rejected by the hospitals of the old world, a vile refuse, fetid and foul, and carrying with it germs of disease. But how, now that the people have recovered from the temporary insanity that afflicted many in 1892, do you think that David proposed to restrict the importation of shoddy to the United States? By making the duty upon it still more onerous? Oh, no! Such a scheme would have been open to suspicion of sanity.

David gravely proposed to eliminate shoddy by making it and wool alike free of duty. "When both are admitted free," argued, or rather said, David, "men will choose and use the better, and the worse will be rejected." A sane person would have said, "When two articles, one vile and cheap, and the other excellent but more costly, can be imported on equal terms of tariff, and when the vile can be made to look, but not to wear, as well as the good, then dealers will force the vile upon the market at just a shade below the price of the good." But David never yet spoke in the language of reason.

However, 1892 was a season of temporary aberration, and it happened as David desired. The Democrats and mugwumps prevailed, and made a tariff bill wherein wool was free. Did free wool chase shoddy out of the field? Not at all. Far otherwise. Cheap shoddy came near to chasing pure wool out of the market.

During the last year of the operation of the McKinley tariff our imports of shoddy were, practically, nothing; 143,000 pounds were all that came in during twelve months. But in the first year of the Wilson-Gorman-Wells tariff our imports of shoddy rose to 14,000,000 pounds, next year to 18,000,000, and for the year ending June 30, 1897,—the last of that miserable tariff—to 48,000,000 pounds. And while the rotten rags of Europe, disguised in the semblance of good cloth, were being dumped by shiploads on our shores and sold as "all wool clothing," thousands of bales of pure wool were rotting along the railway routes of Montana, Texas and Wyoming, unmarketable at cost of freight from West to East. Moreover, 75 per cent of the woolen workers of this country were idle, because the products of pure wool could not compete with the cheap shoddies imported from England. The English pot boiled merrily, and the shoddy that David had likened unto death, was cooked in it for American consumption.

Why do we write this? Because Davis has been silent for the space of three months, and it is about time for him to open his mouth again. We are anxious that when he next doth yap his yap on shoddy shall

be remembered against him.—Inter Ocean.

Whatever the administration may think of it, the people are eager that some pretext may arise for American intervention in the Cuban struggle. An attack on the American consulate in Havana might precipitate this, and then the white squadron would be much in evidence. Nothing nobler is recorded in history than the perseverance of the Cuban patriots. Their deeds deserve chronicling with those of their American prototypes who won independence one hundred years ago. The victory will be all the sweeter if they win it unaided; but the nation is weary of seeing the unnecessary butchery continue. Cuba is destined to be free, and, as liberty-loving Americans, we pray that the day of deliverance may be hastened.

**GATHERED ABROAD.**

Mr. F. Lawley, who is about to leave the London Daily Telegraph after 30 years' service, is writing a life of Judah P. Benjamin.

"Parsifal" on July 19 will open the Baireuth season this year, and will be followed by the "Nibelungen Cycle." In all there will be eight performances of "Parsifal" and three of the "Nibelungen" series.

M. Mannheim, the expert officially employed to appraise the Spitzer collection before it was offered for sale, has put in a bill for \$60,000 for his services, which the heirs refuse to pay, as being excessive.

Right Hon. Sir William George Venables Vernon Harcourt, M. P., liberal leader in the house of commons, has been fined ten shillings and costs in a London police court for allowing his chimney to catch fire through not having been cleaned.

Lord Chief Justice Russell recently surprised the English lawyers by going to London, on finding that he had finished up his assize cases a couple of days sooner than he expected, taking a number of cases from the other judges' lists, and winding up five of them in one day.

Germany is following the lead of London in putting religious plays upon the stage. Adolf Willbrandt's "Hailru," under which Christ is represented, has just been presented at Berlin and received coldly, while Gerhardt Hauptmann is at work on a drama whose subject is the Passion.

In the 93 years since its establishment the British and Foreign Bible society has distributed 147,366,669 Bibles, testaments, and books of extracts from the Scriptures. It has been recently found out that in Persia these publications are utilized by the natives in the manufacture of papier mache articles.

**A Siberian March.**

A remarkable march of 4,700 miles across Siberia, occupying almost a year, has just been completed by two Russian battalions of line infantry and two batteries of artillery, which lately reached their camp on the Amur. The troops marched 4,000 versts by land and made their way for 3,000 versts by water, half the distance on rafts constructed by themselves. Their losses were 6 men dead, 27 left behind in hospitals and 29 horses. The others arrived in good condition and excellent spirits.

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**Strayed.**  
Strayed from Dufur, Or., about the last of July, two bay horses, of about 1000 pounds weight, both geldings; one a light bay, branded S on right hip; the other a dark bay, branded HF (connected) on left shoulder. Information leading to the recovery of either, or both, of these horses will be rewarded by the owner.  
Rev. JOHN EVANS, Columbus, Wash. dec11-1m-ii