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THURSDAY - MAY 5, 1898

LINCOLN'S PLEA FOR M'KINLEY.

It is pleasant to note that the hostile and entirely uncalled for criticism of President McKinley regarding his actions in the Spanish trouble, has entirely subsided. Part of it was undignified, part was cruel. Few people realize what a fearful responsibility rests upon the head of a nation in time of war, and it is cowardly to criticize unless we absolutely know that grounds for it exist. In this connection the following anecdote of President Lincoln illustrates the force of what we are saying:

At the White House one day some gentlemen were present from the West, excited and troubled about the commissions or omissions of the administration. The president heard them patiently, and then replied: "Gentlemen, suppose all the property you were worth was in gold, and you had put it in the hands of Blondin to carry across the Niagara river on a rope, would you shake the cable or keep shouting out to him, 'Blondin, stand up a little straighter! Blondin stoop a little more; go a little faster; lean a little more to the north; lean a little more to the south?' No; you would hold your breath as well as your tongue, and keep your hands off until he was safe over. The government are carrying an immense weight. Untold treasures are in their hands. They are doing the very best they can. Don't badger them. Keep silence, and we'll get you safe across."

NEED OF COALING STATIONS.

In the shipping world the problem of coaling is becoming increasingly important. Only one power—Great Britain—has solved it in a satisfactory manner. It is largely in the adequate establishment of a great number of coaling stations that her commercial and naval strength lies. This has recently been so effectively demonstrated in the Far East that Russia, Germany and France are losing no time in following such a good example. Great Britain is superbly equipped, especially in comparison with Spain, for instance. One port in Porto Rico and a few in Cuba are all that Spain can count on, and their united supply is reported to be insufficient to coal the Spanish fleet for more than two months.

For many years those who represent "the forward policy" have urged upon our government that we not only need coaling stations on the islands to the southeast, but that our coaling stations on the Hawaiian Islands must be preserved at all hazards. Captain Mahan thinks an inviolable resolution of our national policy ought to be that no foreign state should hereafter acquire a coaling station within three thousand miles of San Francisco.

Have the free silver orators revised their argument that the price of wheat depends upon that of silver? If not, they will be at a sad disadvantage in the present campaign, when wheat has soared above the dollar mark, while silver refuses to keep the pace. The selling rate of wheat depends entirely upon the laws of supply and demand, as every honest thinker always contended it did.

Spain is probably far more willing to arbitrate the Maine affair now than she was a few weeks ago; but the time for arbitration, if it ever comes, has long since passed. Nothing will satisfy the American people at this juncture but the acknowledgment of the Spanish gov-

ernment that it is vanquished; and this acknowledgment must be accompanied by an agreement to pay a war indemnity which shall reimburse us for the expense incurred in prosecuting the war. No amount of gold can atone for the murder of the brave sailor lads that night in Havana harbor. For such a deed Spain will be condemned by the judgment of history.

There are plenty of Deweys in the American navy if chance but call them out. The deeds of that brave commander are worthy the highest praise by his countrymen. The opportunity was presented him and he seized it, just as the other commanders will do when the time comes.

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