

For President—
WILLIAM M'KINLEY,
of Ohio.

For Vice-President—
THEODORE ROOSEVELT,
of New York.

IMPERIALISM A KILBAROO.

"Epithets are a convenient recourse for those to whom argument is unattainable but they are not likely to prevail with intelligent people who never mistake them for argument."

"To set up a man of straw is an easy device where no real object of attack exists. This is the familiar trick of attacking something different from what is asserted. And again where there is a course of behavior which is unassailable on its merits but which admits of a metaphorical designation, the adversary whose cause can only rely upon the artful stratagems of the dialectician chooses a metaphor suitable to his purpose, a term or epithet of reproach that is supposed to carry odium or obliquity."

"It is a stupendous concession to the weakness of their cause that our populistic-democratic brethren are driven to the employment of the devices to which I have referred in the conduct of their warfare on the republican party. The paramount issue, they say, is "imperialism," whatever that may be. It is obvious enough that they intend to convey some "hideous" if not "tragic" meaning by the use of this term and that its application to the republican foreign policy is intended to cover this administration with the foulest reproach and the deepest odium and bring it into universal discredit. They do not take the pains to define the meaning of the "epithet." They leave it to do its supposed deadly work on the principle that Curran applied the term "hypothense" to the fish-woman, that it would be effective in proportion to the obscurity of its meaning. They do not realize that in pursuing such a course they are making what Thackeray would call an indecent exposure of their intelligence, for Americans cannot be bamboozled by meaningless epithets however hideous they sound. They do not believe with Napoleon that governments are run by epithets or that party victories are won by their use. The faint gleam of light their platform throws upon the "contents" of the expression, indicates that they propose doing in relation to the Philippines just what the republican party has been doing and will continue to do to the end.

"The pretense that the republican party is committed to the policy of compelling the annexation of the Philippine Islands against the will of the people is a wicked perversion of the truth and could be resorted to by no one, but the devil himself, only in case of the greatest extremity, and it may be disposed of in the language of Abraham Lincoln in replying to his distinguished rival, Senator Douglas, when he said: 'Does the gentleman mean to stand in majestic dignity and pass through his apotheosis and become a god by his antagonism to a proposition which neither man nor mouse in all God's creation has ever advocated?'"

"In the light of the discussion in the populist-democratic press for the last few months the epithet 'imperialism' in its relation to realities finds an apt illustration in an anecdote told by a friend of mine. A wag exhibited a queer looking box which contained, he pretended, a terrible animal that would eat people alive. He exhibited it on one occasion in New York. The beholders asked him what it was. A 'Kilbaroo,' he replied. 'Where does it come from?' 'It came from Africa.' 'What is its color?' 'Green as

jealousy.' 'What does it live on?' 'It lives on snakes.' 'Where do you get the snakes?' 'I get them from my brother-in-law.' 'Where does he get them?' 'Well, he gets them out of his imagination when he has delirium tremens.' 'Oh, then, they are imaginary snakes,' exclaimed the crowd. 'Oh, yes, it is an imaginary Kilbaroo. There is nothing in the box but it scares many foolish people.'"

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