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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1900.

NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC TICKET

FOR PRESIDENT,

William J. Bryan.

OF NEBRASKA.

FOR VICE PRESIDENT,

Adlai E. Stevenson.

OF ILLINOIS.

FOR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS,

W. M. Pierce, of Montana.

DELL STUART, of Massachusetts.

J. WHITTAKER, of Boston.

E. KRONER, of Massachusetts.

THE DISASTER AT GALVESTON.

The people of the city of Galveston, Texas, are under the stress of a great trial. Their homes are wiped out and they have nothing to show for their life's struggles. There are 25,000 of them homeless and 5000 more of them dead, most of these lying in unmarked graves or at the bottom of the gulf.

In 1890 Galveston was a city of 29,864 people according to the census. At the time of the disaster last Saturday night it probably contained 40,000 people, ten per cent of whom perished.

For years "the roar of the storm" will stand in the way of Galveston's progress. Even it may cause it not to be rebuilt. Commercially the location of Galveston is strong, but topographically it is in constant danger from both wind and water.

The city was built on the drifting sand, only a few feet above high water mark. At no place has the city an elevation of more than six or eight feet above the level of the sea at high tide, and some parts of it is even below. It was no place to build a city, but men met there to trade and there a city grew in spite of the threatening water and wind. Whether man will tempt the elements further remains to be seen. Probably the energy of man can and will raise the elevation of the city by filling, and upon this made ground will grow and flourish a greater city, one even which the waters of the great gulf will not wash away.

The site value of Galveston will more than justify the expense, if the work is intelligently directed. It is the great site value, a value created because of the natural advantages of the location, which will attract men there to overcome the risks of the elements which has at irregular intervals for years past threatened to wipe Galveston off the map.

The East Oregonian predicts that Galveston will be rebuilt, and it is likely to become, because of this adversity, a greater city than it ever could have been without it.

HOIST BY ITS OWN PETARD.

The Salem Capital Journal calls attention to the Portland Oregonian's suggestion that it might have been well for some of the papers who opposed Bryan four years ago and are now supporting him, if they had burned their files. The same thing would probably be convenient for some of the papers that are now landing imperialism in the Philippines. Unfortunately the Oregonian is in this class, says the Journal. On May 4, 1898, the Oregonian said: "Already we are in one of the greatest perils of war—the clamor for territorial aggrandizement. The fever of conquest once in the blood is a raging poison hard to allay. We have no further rightful use for the Philippines than as a base of present operations and a hostage pending final settlement. A coaling station let us retain there, out our professions in this war debar us from retention of even Cuba, which is more naturally within our scope than the Philippines." And again in its issue May 10, 1898, it declared: "We do not want to keep the Philippine islands, but we should keep a naval station there." Perhaps the files of the Oregonian of the above dates ought to be burned.

THE HAMILTON CLUB.

The Hamilton club in Chicago, named in honor of Alexander Hamilton, is one of the foremost republican organizations in America. As a body it is a strong supporter of President McKinley for re-election. It was before the club Wednesday night that Mark Hanna made a speech warning his party against overconfidence and the need for "eternal vigilance."

A member of the club has addressed a letter to its president, containing a

proposition to change its name and giving a reason therefor. The writer of the letter makes an attack on Hamilton, and wants the club to repudiate "un-American teachings and theories" of that patron saint of the organization. Hamilton, he says, was a monarchist, autocrat, imperialist and enemy of popular government, and now that the republican party is charged by its political adversaries with imperialistic and despotic designs, "is not the Hamilton Club, the strongest republican organization of the west, by its very name giving food and comfort to the enemy?"

Just so. But the republican party is "imperialistic" in its tendencies and the name of Hamilton best befits it and the suggestion of this member is not in order and will not be considered we venture to assert.

AT THE GATES OF LITERATURE.

In this country there are possibly 20,000,000 or 40,000,000 children. These are, says Henry S. Pancoast in the current Lippincott's, by promise a nation within a nation, a power within a power; the great republic of tomorrow, put to school to learn the high art of living from the republic of today. Mr. Pancoast pictures these millions of young Americans at the gate of literature and he asks: "How and what shall we teach them? Of all our great national questions not one is more momentous; of all the trusts committed to a people not one is more sacred or more vital, for in molding, so far as we may, the generations that shall take our place, the future is plastic to our hand."

This condition implies a duty, but upon whom does this rest? It is not the government or the school-teachers who are to do this; it is primarily the people, the parents. This power to create a new America out of our children we have not delegated—though many act as if we had. It is exercised by us directly in thousands of homes; we hold it, to use or abuse at will.

In attempting to train a child, or a potential nation of children, we cannot ignore one important factor—"the special, distinguishing features of the case with which we have to do. The best training cannot be expressed in any universally applicable formula. It must be determined with reference to the special needs and tendencies of those who are to be trained. The strength and weakness of the individual must be gauged. A nature or nation like Tennyson's Sir Galahad would require a different discipline from a nature or nation like Bunyan's Muck Rake. And if we attempt any general formula we must strive to estimate the national disposition. To Mr. Pancoast this is not an alluring prospect in America. "What," he asks, "are the moral ideals, the predominant influences which are helping to shape and determine the character of our children?" And he answers: "They are growing up in the land of the 'Almighty Dollar,' in a world whose true deity is, in Ruskin's phrase, 'the Goddess of Getting-on.' America is, neither aristocratic nor democratic; it is, in the main, a plutocracy, incomparably the worst social condition of the three."

This, as Mr. Pancoast sees it, from the view-point of a teacher of literature, is the true condition. "Until we become more civilized business will continue to be the true deity of millions of men, and pleasure the chief business of multitudes of women." There is "more of the Muck Rake than the Sir Galahad in our national disposition, and the surroundings of the youth of America tend to repress and deaden character on the side which reaches toward the ideal."

This is not a pleasant picture for those who have the real future and welfare of the nation at heart, but Mr. Pancoast doubtless has abundant reason for drawing it. He has no wish, in doing this, to disparage those so-called "practical" qualities by which men gain money, power and pleasure. He is simply lamenting the morbid growth, the disproportionate development of the qualities, admirable in themselves, and he is distressed over that biased, misshapen manhood which is the inevitable result.

This condition must be acknowledged and, so far as possible, offset, if we would take these millions of children through the gates of literature before which they stand with more or less eagerness to know what lies beyond. The nation is "the imperfect translation of desire into fact. It is not a light matter if business be permitted to encroach upon or detain desire, holding it down to material things; but in our hearts we know—if we will only dare to let ourselves know—that this is our besetting sin."

"The education, therefore, which aims to meet the real needs of America must teach the true meaning of that much-abused word 'success.' It must emphasize the relation which what is called the practical should bear to the ideal. Our plain duty to the coming generations, too often forced to live on low levels where the atmosphere is lifeless and miasmatic, is to fortify and refresh their spirits in the air of the mountain tops. And two such mountain peaks, Mr. Pancoast says, are religion and literature."

Apart from and below religion no spiritual heights are at once more life-giving and more accessible than the high places of literature. And

the basis of any knowledge of literature worth having is, primarily, neither reason nor memory, but taste. The all-important fact is not what a child knows, but what it likes. "The teacher's paramount object is not to teach a certain set of facts, or even to drill his pupils in certain classic productions, however famous; it is to broaden, purify and quicken taste; to be concerned not merely with the teaching of a subject, but with the development of a faculty."

Taste is not a thing to be altered or acquired in a moment. Ruskin says of it: "The first, and last, and closest trial question to any living creature is, 'What do you like?' Tell me what you like, and I'll tell you what you are." * * * What we like determines what we are; and to teach taste is inevitably to form character. Character, and taste as a radical element of character, are formed rather by early influences than by the schools. The formation of both should reach back into the very earliest years. It should begin, like that of morals and conscience, in infancy.

Here, then, lies the duty of parents, the influence of the home. The child's growing mind, like his growing body, feeds on the food that is daily received, and his words and associations, his morals, his manners, his language and his taste. Mr. Pancoast is aware that many homes lie outside the proper conditions of such training and he says he is speaking solely of the children of what we commonly agree to call the "upper classes." To show he is justified in this he tells of a class he was teaching composed of about 100 boys, ranging in age from 12 to 16 years, and mostly from homes of the well-to-do. He gave them Scott's "Lady of the Lake" to read outside the class, "but this poem, which has fired thousands of youthful hearts with a youthful enthusiasm, left them spiritless and cold." He found they could not appreciate the easily flowing verse and romantic charm of the story, because of their imperfect acquaintance with their own language. Such words as "row," "dew," "falcon," "cannon" and "front" were generally unintelligible to the class. And some of these boys of 16 were studying Greek, Latin, French and German! Comment is here unnecessary.

To enter the gates of literature, Mr. Pancoast would have the children taught first of all their mother tongue—and the best of this teaching should be received at home, where "life should move naturally and unforcedly on the higher levels." He should be taught to love pictures and music, the beauty of color and form, the ways of animals, and heroic acts of courage or self-sacrifice. Coming with these things ingrained in his home he will indeed be a poor teacher who cannot lead the child through the gates of literature, within the walls—even, it may be, to the very heart of the citadel. But the journey must be begun in the home and in infancy.

The Jolly Girl

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