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Who is the infidel? 'Tis he
 Who deems man's thought
 Should not be free,
 Who'd veil truth's faintest ray
 Of light
 From breaking on the human
 sight;
 'Tis he who purposes to bind
 The slightest fetter on the
 mind,
 Who rears, lest wreck and wrong
 be wrought,
 To leave man loose with his
 own thought;
 Who in the clash of brain with
 brain,
 Is fearful lest the truth be slain,
 That wrong may win and right
 may flee—
 This is the infidel. 'Tis he.
 —Saml. Walter Foss.

SECESSION OF PANAMA.

Panama was one of the political divisions of the government of Colombia before her declaration of independence last month. She was one sovereign state in a union of Colombian states, recognizing the supremacy of the central government, and claiming protection from the government from external foes and internal insurrection. She occupied the same relation to Colombia that South Carolina occupied toward the government of the United States 40 years ago.

She paid tribute to the general government, sent delegates to the congress of the Colombian states and was one territorial and governmental division of the Colombian Republic.

Finding it to be to her advantage and in harmony with the public sentiment of her people to become an independent government, she severed the bonds existing between herself and the central government, and seceded from the Colombian union of states or provinces.

Colombia protested in vain. It was an irreparable loss to that government to lose Panama. It disrupted the government, set an example before the other states which threatens the foundation of the Colombian government, and emphasized the old principle of secession so thrillingly that the very basis of every South American state trembles for its organic existence.

The president of the United States was one of the first persons in an official position to recognize and endorse the secession of Panama. The government of the United States was one of the very first to recognize the independence of Panama, thereby endorsing the method by which Panama, as an independent government, came into existence—that of secession.

The Daughters of the Confederacy of Texas, seeing in this act of the United States the hearty indorsement of the cherished principle of the South, have adopted the following

resolutions, sending a copy to President Roosevelt, and other prominent public officials at Washington, who have greeted with joy the actions of Panama:

"Whereas, The president of the United States, by his recent course toward the Republic of Panama, has shown to the world his indorsement of the principle and the right of secession; and

"Whereas, The people of the Northern States, by their acceptance and approval of his course, have shown that they have been led by him out of the fog of ignorance to the bright realms of truth attained by Southern statesmen so many years ago; be it

"Resolved, That we extend to the president the hearty thanks of the Daughters of the Confederacy of the State of Texas, in convention assembled, for his indorsement of the principles and his vindication of the cause for which the Southern people fought so gloriously but so disastrously in the war between the states."

The first actual step toward the operation of the Independent Packing Company has been taken. The Independent Stockyards Company has been incorporated at St. Louis, sites for buildings, offices and yard facilities selected, and arrangements made to begin operations on January 1, 1904. The capital stock of the Independent Stockyards Company is \$100,000, and it is the forerunner of the Independent Packing Company. This will be encouraging news to Western stockmen, who have sacrificed their legitimate profits to the beef trust for years. Every stockman in Oregon should go to Portland to attend the National Livestock Association meeting in January and by voice and presence encourage the promotion of the independent Packing Company. It is the only promise for the rangeman. It is a power placed in his hands by which he can smite the trust through legitimate business competition. If the independent Packing Company fails to be pushed to completion, the fault will be with those who most need its assistance. Umatilla county may personally rejoice at the incorporation of this stockyards company in St. Louis. It is the first shot in the battle against the beef trust.

E. H. Harriman, while in Portland this week, exhibited a broad-gauge and liberal disposition, when he said that the great company he represents is not actively opposed to the building of the portage road, as long as it did not interfere with the operation of his road. He was willing for transportation facilities to be increased for increased settlement always followed increased facilities and settlement anywhere in the country tributary to his lines made more business for his lines and meant more profits for his treasury. But Mr. Harriman need not fear the opposition which the portage road may constitute in the traffic of the Inland Empire. The money intended for the construction of the portage road is yet locked in the state treasury; the plans of the portage commission are locked in the minds of the members; the rate of the portage bill which created the commission is locked up in the program of the special session, and God, only, knows what that is, the governor don't.

Secretary Hitchcock's determination to attend to his own business is delightful, although it offends Oregon. He is paid to fill his office.

WOMAN'S DANGER.

When Dr. Dix, rector of Trinity church, deploras "the steady decline of womanhood from its old ideals" and "its deterioration through copying the ways and invading the sphere of men" the first impulse of every man, recalling the noble women of his own acquaintance, is to resent the imputation.

But when we put personal feeling aside and look over the whole field, as

disclosed in the current news and in unimpeachable statistics, it is impossible to resist the conviction that the rector of Trinity is right. American women of the classes with which he deals have deteriorated from the old ideals of womanhood.

Would it have been possible 50 or even 29 years ago for two divorced persons in fashionable society to have a wedding the very day of the woman's divorce decree, at which five of the 10 guests had been themselves divorced?

In 1900 the census-takers found 114,677 divorced women in the United States, and the statistician in charge warns us that this is an under-estimate, since many divorcees described themselves as single.

The American woman's head has been turned by adulation and in her worship of self she forgets some of her duty to husband, family and country. "She becomes unpatrotic, bartering her republican birthright for foreign titles. She becomes extravagant, shallow and vain. She is forgetting how to manage a home. She flits frivolously from pleasure to pleasure and often from husband to husband. Alan has placed her upon a pedestal, but such stern yet needful admonitions as that of Dr. Dix proves that it is beginning to topple from her own acts."
 —New York World.

COLLECTOR OUTGENERATED.

A well known collector of bad debts dropped into the reporter's rooms at the city hall the other day and requested permission to use the telephone. The permission was granted him and for five minutes only the roar of his voice could be heard.

When the collector got through he was red in the face and perspiring, and what he said when he left the telephone box and slammed the door was not what is commonly called polite language.

"I've just got rid of the toughest case I have had in my twenty-five years' experience as a collector," he explained to the newspaper men who were sitting around wondering what had happened to disturb his usual serenity. "I'd go out of the business if I had many more like him. Just twelve years ago I was given the task of collecting \$20 that he owed a downtown merchant. I chased him for two years without getting a cent, and then he came to me and wanted to know if he could not make arrangements to pay the bill in installments and rid himself of the annoyance he said I caused him.

"I was only too glad to accept his offer, and at his request prepared for his signature a paper which was an agreement to pay me weekly what he could until the account was settled. That paper came near driving me insane, for regularly once a week for 520 weeks, ten years, mind you, that fellow came into my office, paid me a nickel, got his receipt and walked out."

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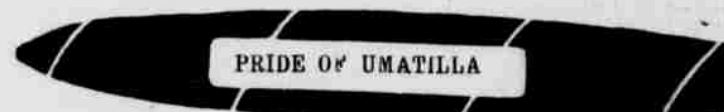
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