

# THE WEST.

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In conversation with nine persons in one hundred will say that all government officials should discharge the duties of their office impartially, without fear or favor, that they should treat all alike, the high and the low, the rich and the poor, the intelligent and the ignorant, all are equal before the law. But there is one thing peculiar about it with many people. Suppose A has been remiss or evaded the law in some point and an officer warns him and compels him thereafter to comply with the law. Many times the neighbors will applaud the officer for his vigilance in attending to the duties of his position. They are more likely to do so if A has made a practice of getting around the law and has escaped the penalties due such conduct. If this were the way with everybody then the only thing necessary to win popularity as an office holder would be for a man to attend to the duties of the office to the best of his ability. But to the ambitious person with an easy conscience there is another side to look at. Frequently those who are loudest in their approval when they see others made to walk in straight lines have themselves evaded the law on the same or some other point in a way that good citizens should not. Perhaps B is one of these. Now while he rejoiced to see A's shortcomings looked after, does he do the same when he is admonished that his own course be changed to one more becoming to a good citizen? Not often. Very few look at it in the same light when they are the parties involved. There are some who will admit its justice in their case the same as in the case of others. But with too many their inborn selfishness is such as to lead them to desire favors for themselves that are not in accordance with law or perhaps justice and which they are unwilling to see extended to others. Some when such favors are denied them regard the official as an enemy and endeavor to have him removed. They are the more likely to do this if the favor is one which they have enjoyed for a time. When a man is chosen to an important office it is natural that in most cases he should desire to hold the position for several terms either for the profit or the honor that may be in it. But he knows very well that if he makes too many enemies he will be unable to retain the position long. What is the consequence? Some, caring more for doing right than for all else will attend to their duties impartially and faithfully. Others whose conscience is easier to satisfy will grant the favors desired if it can be done secretly, thus selling their honor in the hope of gaining friends who will help to retain them in office.

**FIVE POWERS** are dividing the world among them. Russia began the operation, burrowing in the interior obscurity of a continent for centuries before it came to light on the shores of the Baltic and Black seas, reflects the New York Commercial Advertiser. Great Britain, the natural heir of Spain's decay and France's incompetence, did most of her work in the full light of the eighteenth century and got herself dubbed the great colonizing power. France began in the seventeenth, failed in the eighteenth and has challenged fate with remarkable success again in the nineteenth century. Germany began only twenty years ago, but has carved out 1,500,000 square miles of territory in Africa. The United States began with a group of petty seacoast colonies, has cut a huge cantle out of the North American continent and established moral dominion over all the South American, and now is looking abroad. These are the vital people. These are the growing nations. The rest are to look on till their hour strikes.—Clyde Herald.

DISPATCHES from London say that there are prospects of serious trouble between Great Britain and Russia. As an evidence of the fact that Great Britain appreciates the gravity of the situation, the Associated Press learns the admiralty is preparing for all emergencies, and that it will soon be ready to mobilize. Every officer and man on furlough or half pay has been assigned to a ship and instructed to be in readiness to join at the earliest moment. Therefore, practically every ship in the British navy at the present moment has a full war complement ready to go to sea when the time arrives.

# WAR NEWS.

The Spanish cabinet on the 6th inst. approved the basis of the peace conditions proposed by the United States. It will be necessary to appoint commissioners to arrange the details.

A Madrid correspondent says: Spain's answer will accept all the American terms except that regarding the Cuban debt. The government will fight this point on the ground that in all other sessions of territory by one nation to another, the ceded territory has carried with it its own debt or the portion belonging to the nation by which it is ceded.

It being expected that the United States will assume liability for claims against the Spanish government for injuries and damages caused in the Cuban insurrection, a large number of claims are now being filed with the state department. Many of these date back for very many years and for causes not connected with the war.

It is said the army will not be disbanded as soon as hostilities cease but the period before the formal signing of the treaty of peace and its ratification by the senate will be devoted to perfecting the complete and effective organization of our army and the cleaning, repairing and placing in condition the vessels of the navy.

## INTRIGUES IN SAMOA.

S. F. Chronicle:

The Germans have long wanted Samoa, and since the United States annexed Hawaii and found use for all its war ships in the fight with Spain, they have been intriguing for it in a way that should draw sharp remonstrances from Washington and London. The latest news from the group shows that the German president of the municipal council of Apia, in a controversy with a British resident, has defied the authority of the American chief justice, which was conferred by the Berlin treaty, and that other Germans are trying to bring about a revolt of the islanders so as to warrant intervention. These are the same tactics which the presence of an American fleet checked in 1889, and their renewal now is regarded at Apia as a sign that the Kaiser thinks that America, being busy with Spain, will not bother with Samoan affairs, and that England will do nothing to prevent complete German occupancy without American initiative.

If this is his impression it will doubtless be removed very soon after his first overt act. The United States, under this administration, is not likely to lose sight either of the naval value of its foothold in Samoa or of the danger that might come of a German Gibraltar in mid-Pacific. That President Cleveland did so and advised the abandonment of Samoa counts for nothing now. It was one of the blunders that discredited him. The policy which supplanted his is a complete reversal of the doctrine of continental isolation and has already borne fruit in territorial acquisition abroad.

We are well aware that the commercial gains to this country from the triple system of control in Samoa are not great, and that it would make small difference to our merchants if the ownership of the group should pass to any friendly foreign power. But the strategic question is all-important. We need a coaling station in the south Pacific, and we cannot afford to turn the one we have over to a possible enemy. There is enough in that consideration to warrant us in some early and decisive utterance about the future intent of this country to keep its Samoan property intact, and to back up that outgiving with a display of the flag in the harbors of the group. If the United States alone or jointly with England, takes such a course there will be a prompt closing of an incident which has already been too much prolonged.

## A BLESSING.

Register:

Crimes often occur in small towns which would in some cities become the sensations of the time. Luney's sausage mill nor Durrant's church belfry might present no more terrible scenes than Ison's corral at Alder Springs, in this county, if a San Francisco or a Chicago scandal monger were only on the ground to draw pictures and published interviews of people who "know all about the crime."

The rural population should thank their God that they and their children are freed from this blighting curse of paraded vice and crime.

CHICAGO NEWSPAPERS and those of many other cities have increased their subscription price nearly 100 per cent. The raise in the price of paper and the fearful expense of telegraphic service, incident to the war news, have necessitated the change.

# WASHINGTON LETTER.

FROM OUR REGULAR CORRESPONDENT.

WASH., D. C., Aug. 1st, 1898.

Spain is an up-to-date exemplification of the adage about the evils attendant upon a bad name. Although President McKinley has acted upon Spain's request for our terms of peace as though he believed in its honor and straightforwardness, there is no reason to believe that his faith in Spanish honor is any greater than that of the average men—owing to his experience, it is probably not so great. Not one man out of ten in Washington, believes that Spain made those overtures with any serious intention of accepting our terms of peace, although in the end it may do so. It has very nearly reached a case of "must" with Spain, and if it does not accept the present terms, which, under the circumstances are liberal in the extreme—so liberal that the French Ambassador, who is now also accredited as Spanish minister accepted them on the spot, more severe ones will have to be accepted later. The terms condensed are the evacuation of Cuba and Porto Rico, and leaving the Philippine question to be settled afterwards.

In the general discussion which has followed Spain's plea for peace, some very interesting points have been raised. For instance, as an evidence of Spain's insincerity, one man calls attention to a clause in the Spanish constitution which prohibits the crown even entering upon negotiations having in view the cession or exchange of any portion of Spanish territory, until authority therefor has been granted by a majority vote of both branches of the national legislature. This is met by another man with the claim that the recent declaration of martial law throughout Spain operates as a suspension of the constitution, and that the Spanish government can, if it so desires negotiate a treaty on the lines laid down by the terms of this government without danger of having its legality questioned.

Gen. Miles is having an experience in Porto Rico that is unique in war. Instead of finding himself and army in the enemy's country, he finds that they are among the warmest sort of friends. The Porto Ricans cheer our flag and our soldiers whenever a town is taken possession of and declare themselves to be loyal Americans, many of them carrying the declaration to the extent of asking to be allowed to enlist in our army and fight for the flag which they already consider their own. Owing to the retreat of the Spanish garrisons of the captured territory, Gen. Miles is now in possession of almost the entire south end of Porto Rico, including Ponce and other towns of more or less importance, and what is better, he has not lost a man, and the health of his army is good. All of the Spanish troops on the island are being concentrated at San Juan, towards which Gen. Miles is slowly approaching, and there may be some severe fighting there, although but little surprise would be caused by the surrender of the garrison when our army gets near enough to assault their fortifications.

Gen. Shafter has officially confirmed the press statement of the worthlessness of Garcia and his Cubans in the Santiago campaign.

The fears of the administration that the Philippine insurgents were likely to make trouble for us at Manila, have been increased by dispatches from Admiral Dewey, and Gen. Merritt, which reached here last week. Aguinaldo, the insurgent chief is nursing a bad case of the big head, and has had little enough sense to try to give himself airs in his dealings with Admiral Dewey. One consolation in the situation is that Aguinaldo's relations with the Spanish are such that there is no possibility of his making a combination with them against us. After Manila is taken and the Spanish disposed of, Gen. Merritt and Admiral Dewey will be in a position to administer a thrashing to the insurgents, if their actions show them to be hankering after it. The taking of Manila is not likely to be much longer deferred, unless peace puts a stop to the campaign.

Although not free from doubts than everybody else about how long we shall wait for peace, Secretary Long has issued orders for the Monitors and yachts composing the auxiliary coast defense fleet, generally referred to as the "Mosquito Fleet" to be put out of commission. This is the first step taken to reduce the tremendous war expense of the government. A naval officer was asked if he thought this action on Secretary Long's part indicated his belief that peace was near at hand, replied: "Not necessarily. I think the vessels composing this fleet would have been ordered out of commission if Spain had not said a word about peace. Secretary Long knows that Spain has no ships

left to attack our coast, and that this fleet is no longer needed." The same officer was asked what about the decision by Secretary Long to purchase only one floating dock for service in southern waters, instead of two, which it was decided to buy before Spain made peace overtures. He said: "It was the destruction of Cervera's fleet, not peace overtures, that caused that change."

## HOMESTEAD IMPROVEMENT ASSESSMENT.

Editor West: I have seen your comment on the subject of "Assessing Improvements" in the West of July 22. You say you "see no reason why such improvements should not be assessed before final proof on the homestead is made as well as after." There is one reason: The improvements are a part of the real estate and belong to the United States. Should the homesteader sell them and let them (houses, fences etc.) be removed, the federal courts, if the government took the matter there, would innet him therefor. If he fails to make the final proof they go with the land into the government domain, and no state law can, by declaring that part of the government really is personal property, vest the title thereof in an individual. The assessing of the improvements as personal property before final proof and as real estate thereafter, is a confession of the invalidity, of the contention that they are taxable by the state.

Very few homesteaders in Oregon have sufficient personal property to bring them within the taxable figures, therefore the more pitiable spectacle of state and county practically blackmailing those few out of the pittance because to resist the imposition would more expensive than to submit to it.

Homestead improvements, as you say, possess value, but they belong to Uncle Sam and therefore cannot legally be taxed the same—as other kind of property.

I am not squealing because I am bitten. I have paid no tax on homestead improvements and never expect to be asked to pay any, and I pay my taxes cheerfully and would like to see heavier taxes levied and more improvements made.

WM. H. WHEELER.

## WILL GUARANTEE TAX DEEDS.

Register:

The county court will make a new ruling whereby the owners of tax deeds issued by the county will be protected in the future. Heretofore the county has not guaranteed tax deeds, and the purchasers of land sold for tax money have had to take chances upon all properties obtained in that way. Where errors were made, which frequently occurred, and the original owner of the property reclaimed it after the sale, the person who bought it at the sheriff's sale always experienced a great deal of difficulty in getting his money back. Further difficulties along that line will be avoided, as the county will give a guarantee with each tax deed for the prompt return of the purchase money, in case of errors arise out of the sale.

## UNITED STATES 100 YEARS AGO.

One hundred years ago there was no public library in the United States.  
 One hundred years ago, the only hat factory made cocked hats.  
 One hundred years ago, fifty cents was good pay for a day's labor.  
 One hundred years ago, Virginia had one-fifth the population of the United States.  
 One hundred years ago, two stages carried all the travel between New York and Boston.  
 One hundred years ago, a whipping post and pillory were standing in New York.  
 One hundred years ago, beef, pork, salt fish, potatoes and hominy were staple diet the year around.  
 One hundred years ago, buttons were scarce and trousers were fastened with pegs and laces.  
 One hundred years ago, there were practically no manufacturers in the United States. Every housewife raised her own flax and made her own linen.  
 One hundred years ago, church collections were taken in a bag at the end of a pole, with a bell attached to arouse sleepy contributors.  
 One hundred years ago, there were no steamboats, railroads, telegraph wires, electric lights, gas, kerosene or matches.

W. RANKINGOOD and Harry Price two young men of Cincinnati have originated the idea of starting a fund among school children for the purpose of raising money to build a battleship to be called "The American Boy." The plan is to build the ship and present it to the government. President McKinley has given them a letter indorsing their idea.

# Literary.

(ORIGINAL AND SELECTED.)

Human science is uncertain guess.  
 Few love to hear the sins they love to act.

The effective strength of sects is not to be ascertained merely by counting heads.

Thou hast betrayed thy secret as a bird betrays her nest, by striving to conceal it.

People all lie to secrets are so without knowing why; they are not so for cause, but for secrecy's sake.

All sects are different because they come from men; Morality is everywhere the same, because it comes from God.

Never confide your secrets to paper; it is like throwing a stone in the air, and if you know who throws the stone you do not know where it may fall.

Science is a first rate piece of furniture for a man's upper chamber, if he has common sense on the ground floor. But if a man hasn't got good common sense, the more science he has the worse for his patient.

They may say what they like, everything is organized matter. The tree is the first link of the chain, man is the last. Men are young, the earth is old. Vegetable and animal chemistry are still in their infancy. Electricity, galvanism,—what discoveries in a few years!

Twinsister of natural and revealed religion, and of heavenly birth, science will never belie her celestial origin, nor cease to sympathize with all that emanates from the same pure home. Human ignorance and prejudice may for a time seem to have divorced what God hath joined together; but human ignorance and prejudice shall at length pass away, and then science and religion shall be seen blending their particular rays into one beautiful bow of light, linking heaven to earth and earth to heaven.

The majesty of Scripture strikes me with admiration, as the purity of the Gospel has its influence on my heart. Peruse the works of our philosophers, with all their pomp of diction, how contemptible, are they, compared with the Scriptures! Is it possible that a book at once so simple and sublime should be merely the work of man? The Jewish authors were incapable of diction, and strangers to the morality contained in the Gospel, the marks of whose truths are so striking and inimitable that the inventor would be a more astonishing character than the hero.

## AS ON A DAY.

A MELODY.

As on a day in merry May  
 I wandered thro' the milk white grove,  
 Each mottle I warbler blithe and gay  
 Far straining lays of love,  
 I thought not how the world could be  
 So full of grief and care,  
 When buds burst forth on every tree  
 And all about was harmony—  
 Birds singing, flowers springing,  
 So happy and so fair.  
 Each prickly thorn gay robes adorn  
 'Mid crimson rose and violet pied;  
 That Nature gives man naught to mourn  
 Seemed true on every side,  
 And yet within that bonny glen,  
 A lesson to forego,  
 I knew that 'mong the haunts of men  
 Were some for power and greed of gain  
 Still carving and starving  
 In misery and woe.  
 Then by fair Nature's verdant bower  
 That flowering could such scenes allow,  
 And by sweet Mary's holy power  
 I made a solemn vow;  
 That even though with toil grown old,  
 In body or in mind,  
 So long as nature would uphold,  
 Against the tyrant kings of gold,  
 If right still, I'd fight still  
 The battle of mankind.

TRILCOOS.

## Extremely Weak

Deficient Blood Causes Loss of Appetite and Final Break Down—Hood's Sarsaparilla Cures.

"I lost my appetite and about all I lived on was food lemonade. My strength was all gone. I was so weak I could hardly cross the floor. At last I was taken very sick. One physician said my blood was all gone and he gave me medicine but it did not help me. I had pretty much lost all faith in medicines, but thought I would get one bottle of Hood's Sarsaparilla and try it. After taking that bottle I was much better, and so I got two more bottles and after taking them I was well, but to be sure of it, I kept on taking Hood's Sarsaparilla until I had used in all five bottles. It has done unspeakable good to me and I wish all my suffering sisters would try it." Mrs. A. E. WEDDERBURN, Oregon. Remember

**Hood's Sarsaparilla**  
 Is the best in fact the One True Blood Purifier. Sold by all druggists. Price, \$1.50 six for \$5.

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