

"LE ROI EST MORT."

(Written for the DEMOCRAT.)

The published opinions of public men on the merits of the President's farewell message are characteristic of their respective political sentiments. Such opinions are valueless, because there is no assurance that they are sincere. A document of this kind emanating from the President under the circumstances confronting him, is entitled to more than casual consideration and hasty ill-informed partisan criticism. For a democrat to say it is good and a republican to say it is bad, is all meaningless. It throws no light on the paper, and it simply illustrates the restraint thrown around the judgment of politicians.

Mr. Cleveland has made his record, and it will go down into history and be measured by time for what it is really worth. It will certainly be conspicuous, if only because it is a break in the long line of republican Administrations under the order of things brought about by the war. His last annual message, prepared as it has been with great care, setting before the country his policy and his important acts in a manner intended to give them the greatest justification, suggesting the causes of defeat, and warning the people against the dangers that, in his opinion, environ them, presents subjects that invite the attention of republicans as well as democrats.

It is said by the republicans that the general condition of the country is one of prosperity, and that the outlook is not so hopeless as the President seems disposed to make it. But he has not said that it is hopeless. He has merely warned the country of its possible dangers. Eternal vigilance is the price of prosperity as well as of liberty. In the fairest weather the safest ocean steamer keeps its forward watch on the lookout, and it is the duty of the Captain of the sea ship or the ship of state to look out for trouble ahead and promptly sound the warning, and not content himself with announcing all's well simply because everything about him is serene.

It is to be feared that the President's last message will pass out of men's minds because he is passing out of power. But in truth it is because he is passing out of power that his words are of more force. The temptation to one in such a position is to augment the present well being, to declare that everything looks cheering and then leave the future to make comparison when the inevitable mishaps of political management come to pass. Damage is not done simply by the election. If damage comes it must come from the new management after it is installed and has its opportunity for good or evil.

The greatest evil of the times manifests itself in the attitude in which President Cleveland is placed at this hour. There is a certain turning away from him, a certain betrayal of a feeling that he is no longer the dispenser of power and gifts that is ungenerous and contemptible. This feeling reveals itself in small ways as well as great. Perhaps the greatest revelation is in the small things. Only the other day—a day long set aside for the reception of those who desired to pay their respects to the President because they desired to honor him—when the appointed hour came there were so few present that it was announced very properly that there would be no reception. His declining to make his appearance conveys the gratifying assurance that Mr. Cleveland respects himself and the great office that he holds.

It has, at all times, been the ill fortune of rulers to be forgotten when their successors trip into power at their death. It has always taken but one breath to exclaim that the king is dead and to shout long life to the new king. But this is royalty, not that weak flavor of royalty that has become the fashion of the free-born American. Yet a golden sunset closing the serenity of a fair day may be a better symbol than the rising sun piercing clouds that may herald a coming storm.

When the President's message was read in the House the democrats roundly cheered some of its passages, while the republicans sneeringly laughed aloud. It was ill-mannered to say the least of it. It is thus in the prize ring, but not so with men who cross swords. When Grant and Lee met at Appomattox after the final struggle they raised their hats. Barbarian warriors dragged their captives at their heels in chains, and the brutal Britisher shouts down his already defeated adversary in the Commons. It is a pity that our political encounters are so dirty to the touch and so indecent in their exultations of victory.

January 3rd, 1889.

YOUNG DEMOCRACY.

Gentlemen frequently complain of their barber shaving them too close, and the face and neck breaking out into small pimples. If Dutard's specific is applied to the face immediately after shaving, no matter how close the shave, all soreness will be prevented. Sold by Foshay & Mason.

Baby carriages at Stewart & Sox's.

It is by no means settled that forests increase rainfall, as is quite generally believed. From an analysis of many series of observations recorded in New England and on the Western prairies, regions which have undergone radical changes in respect to their forest covering, Mr. Henry Gannett has reached the conclusion that wooded areas have no influence on rainfall, though they produce, notwithstanding, important economic effects. They act as reservoirs to keep back the rain from the rivers, preventing floods, but also, as much water is evaporated from the leaves without reaching the earth, permanently diminishing the flow of the streams that irrigate arid valleys. They also reduce the extremes of temperature, act as windbreaks, and otherwise serve useful purposes.

It is when the workman finds his flour barrel and his coal bin empty and his family needing clothes and bedding and the chill winds of winter whistling around his humble home, that he realizes how the power of the trusts and monopolistic combinations which Mr. Blaine defends and the republican party feeds and fosters with high tariff taxes, is heartlessly employed to grind the poor into dust with exactions on which capital prospers and multiplies itself.

The Statesman says there is some talk of dividing Linn county at the coming session of the Legislature. This will be news to the people of this county, and already inquiry is being made as to what section of the state is moving in the matter.

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SELLING AT COST.—Until after the holidays all my stock of felt hats and bonnets, baby hoods, plushes, fancy feathers, etc. Special sale, call early. Ida M. Brush, first door east Strahan's new brick.

This space is reserved for Dr. Guise and Son, of the City Drug Store. Watch for their adv.

CHANGE IN BUSINESS.

All parties knowing themselves indebted to the firm of Thompson & Waters, either by note or account, must come forward and settle the same within thirty days, as there is going to be a change in their business. Brownsville, Or., Jan. 1st, 1889. THOMPSON & WATERS.

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A. J. ROSSITER, V. S.
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