

TOO MANY COLONELS.

North Dakota is Being Overrun with Them.

The Western Grasshopper. They Mul-ti-ply and Swarm Over the State. No Farmers Are Safe Among Them.

Getting to be nearly as numerous as the Russian cacti, the Fargo Argus. They are multiplying and increasing with dangerous rapidity. You can scarcely throw a stone as a dog without running the risk of accidentally hitting a colonel. Colonels in muff, which may be broadcloth or corduroy, in stable frocks or "kissers' aprons, taking orders for boots or rubber stamps or selling patent medicines or plasters, are as common as straight whisky in Kentucky as new theories of government in a populist mass-meeting. It was once proposed to raise a regiment composed entirely of colonels. The troubles nowadays would be not to get the regiment, but to select from enough applicants for an army corps. Fargo alone could probably furnish more colonels than there are in the active list of the army—and some of Fargo's colonels are men who really have served in the army, which distinguishes them from the colonels of most communities. The "captain," the "judge" and the "major" are not to be mentioned in the same day with the colonels. These old relics of southern barrooms are vastly in the minority, and the day of the colonels is at hand.

Like the lilies of Egypt they throng; like the grasshoppers of Missouri they congregate. From every station in life, from every profession, of every age and condition, there are colonels to the right and left, colonels ad libitum and ad nauseam. From whence this great aggregation of colonelistic talent? Where have been bred the eagles that have swooped down and roosted upon all these shoulders? Some of them were infants in arms when the late war closed, some of them were manipulators of hotel registers and concocters of the titillating cocktail while the war raged, and some have been tenders of equestrian steeds since they have been high enough to reach a stirrup. How come these to be dubbed "colonel?"

Faithful and persistent inquiry among the colonels themselves throws little light upon the subject. Some cannot claim anything better than that their wives people kept a hotel where the soldiers boarded. They do not claim, even, that they themselves kept the hotels. There would seem to be a shadow of reason why the majestic creature, in a clean, starched shirt and Alaskan diamond pin, looking complacently to heaven as he balances a toothpick with his lips and thrusts a penholder at a guest, should be called by a high-sounding military title, but to dub a man colonel only because his father-in-law's brother kept a boarding-house seems to be straining a point. Another colonel, when asked as to his command, hemmed a little, put on a frown, supposed to be fierce, pulled his shirt collar a little higher, and replied that he had forgotten the number of his regiment. "It was so long ago, you know, and I have always had a bad head for figures." Another explained that he had formed a partnership with a major, who was a junior in a concern, it became necessary, as a matter of discipline to the help, that he should rank his partner. The fact remains, however, that the colonels are overrunning the earth and consuming the substance thereof. Privates are as scarce as the teeth of hens. Most unmilitary people think that corporal is the higher officer, and whoever hears of a sergeant? There is a general impression abroad that a colonel has something to do with horses—something between a farrier and a veterinary surgeon—and the real colonels, the few who really bore Uncle Sam's commission as such, are without honor in the country where mock colonels constitute a majority of the male population over the age of twenty.

ABOUT EMBLEMS.

The Significance of Many of Them Shrouded in Mystery.

What the learned Dr. Alken once called "A Visible Image of an Invisible Thing," in fact the emblem, has so little record in modern times, that even the encyclopedias give concerning it only the dictionary definition. Yet two centuries ago it formed the subject for the work of some of the best writers, painters and engravers of Europe; while antiquity has illustrated it in a myriad of forms, the meaning of which is in thousands of instances lost to us in the mystery and darkness that overshadows the history of so much of human life.

Any object which presents at a glance a meaning beyond its mere appearance is an emblem. The torch for illumination, the scales for justice, the anchor for hope, the owl for wisdom, the butterfly for the soul, the scythe and hour-glass for death. The first attempt at writing was emblematical, and Chinese writing is so to this day. So were the Egyptian hieroglyphics and the same can be said of our own Indian picture writing.

All coinage, from the first Hebrew shekel to the last American dollar; all the flags of all nations; all state or national seals, are emblematical of something. The cross, the crown, the scepter, the miter, every church steeple in every land, mosque, minaret and pagoda, temple and shrine, idol and fetish, all are emblems.

Every letter in every language, every figure, the sign of every trade and profession, the roses of England, the lilies of France, Ireland's shamrock and Scotland's thistle, are all emblems. And yet, strangely enough, it is only by persistent search that one can find out even the least about the origin of this class of art, the meaning of its varied forms, the hidden sense being often lost utterly while only the form remains.

DANGER TO THE WORLD.

China a Menace to the Civilization of All Lands.

Japan Within Her Rights in Her Efforts to Maintain a Hold Upon Corea—Exclusive Nationality of the Chinese.

Sir Edwin Arnold is a warm partisan of the Japs, but he had the privilege of witnessing the grand army maneuvers of some two or three years since, and no one will deny to him a knowledge of the interior economy of the country. Sir Edwin Arnold, says the London Daily Graphic, will not countenance the belief of Mr. Curzon that the Japanese government is desperately occupied with domestic politics.

"I am surprised that so intelligent an observer should not have known how little the Japanese houses of parliament count socially or politically against the policy of those ministers whom the emperor appoints and whom he removes at his sole pleasure. When the deputies make themselves impossible they are simply sent home; when they refuse supplies public funds are taken quietly on account; and when they bring things to a deadlock the emperor and his advisers carry on the business of the country, after dissolving parliament, which, amid all these vagaries—the lively working of new and generous wine—remains steadfastly loyal and ardently patriotic."

That the two countries had equal rights in Corea, and that when one increased its force the other was bound to do the same, was the writer's contention—in short, that Japan has done and is doing precisely what England would have done under the same circumstances.

"In the present struggle Japan unquestionably stands the champion of progress, of justice, and of international development, so that the partisanship shown in certain quarters against her has in it an element of stupidity which cannot, therefore be easily excused." More interesting than this, though, is Sir Edwin Arnold's reminder of one of the forces "which more potently tends to hold China together in her intense and exclusive nationality," namely, the extreme anxiety of the Celestial to be buried at home. "But if some high ecclesiastical authority, or the Vermillion Pen-cil itself, should decree as they well might, that Confucius should be satisfied if a pinch of Chinese dust were thrown into the foreign grave—then the floodgates would be open to a general Chinese immigration into all lands."

"One perceives how heavy the obligation is, and at the same time how binding, when again and again, at San Francisco and other ports of embarkation, Chinese passengers are stopped carrying in a carpet-bag or a hat-box the bones of their relatives. But when any such general emigration of China-men occurs as that which I am forecasting, it will be a social and industrial deluge. The markets of the world will be literally swamped with the most industrious, persevering, fearless and frugal specimens of mankind who will everywhere underbid labor and monopolize trade, as they have done in Singapore, Penang and many other spots. The danger to civilization that China represents consists in this rather than in her unwieldy strength and aloof resources, the inefficiency of which for actual service Japan has already exposed by the brilliant commencement of the present campaign."

"For these and other reasons it is to the interest of the civilized world that China should not become more homogeneous or any larger than she is at present, and above all that she should not intrigue with the second colossal standing menace to human progress, the Russian empire, against the freedom of the Pacific. That German journal had the true instinct in scientific politics which lately wrote that, in the war just declared, the sympathies and good wishes of civilization were due entirely to the side of Japan."

Then They Split.

"Woman play odd tricks on one another sometimes," said a smart American woman; "but the queerest I ever heard of was perpetrated by one social leader in a western city upon another. They were rivals, and hated each other accordingly, though outwardly they preserved the semblance of pleasant relations. Every chance that either got to give a dig at the other was eagerly seized, but the final and most effective stroke, after which no calls were exchanged, was delivered by Mrs. L. She sent out cards for a grand entertainment, and then took pains to find out what Mrs. F., her competitor, was going to wear. A gorgeous broad-clothed satin was the material of Mrs. F.'s gown, it was ascertained. Accordingly Mrs. L., whose husband was in the dry-goods business, obtained several hundred yards of the same identical stuff and draped the walls of all the rooms on the lower floor of her house with it. You may imagine the feelings of Mrs. F. on arriving in her superb new frock, which she expected to make a sensation. Naturally she ordered her carriage and drove away in tears."

A Queer Turn of Fortune.

A certain Mr. Davies, who began life as a sawyer and carpenter, and whose honesty and industry carried him on to wealth as a railway contractor, sunk all his money in boring for coal, no coal being found. Then he called a large meeting of his miners, and told them that he had spent the earnings of his life in the speculation and would have to abandon it. Holding up a half-crown, he declared that that was all he had left of forty thousand pounds, which he had sunk in the mine. A fellow called out: "And we'll have that, too." "So you shall!" cried Davies, and threw the coin among them. This bit of desperation so delighted the men that they straightway determined to go to work again, wages or no wages. In a few days they found excellent coal, and plenty of it, and Davies was again a rich man.



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