

# Saint Mary's Beacon.

## News in the President's Message.

The present message is rather an exception in that it contains several pieces of news not heretofore announced.

Several of the principal features of the message may be summarized briefly. Emphatic indorsement of the gold standard, recommendation for steamship subsidies—thus, as the head of the party, making it a party question—and legislation regulating and restricting trusts, and Government aid for the Nicaragua Canal.

One piece of news given by the President is the positive and final declaration of the Government to acknowledge any liability for the killing of the Hungarian laborers in the mining riots in Pennsylvania. The recommendation in this connection, and in connection with the lynching of Italians in Louisiana, for legislation assuming Federal jurisdiction in such cases was well received and the opinion expressed that it is the duty of Congress to act. The President's thorough disposal of Mr. Joseph Chamberlain's assumptions by the emphatic statement of the purpose to continue a neutral attitude in all difficulties between other Governments not affecting our own interests was freely commented upon with much satisfaction.

Something of a sensation was created by the allusions to the Alaska boundary question, for although the President expresses "hope" that the troublesome questions involved may be speedily settled, the whole tone of his language would seem to indicate that the hope is not very strong.

Undoubtedly, by far the most interest attached to the message was involved in what he had to say about Cuba and our new island possessions. The country is informed officially that we have "taken in" four of the Samoan Islands and from the cheerful and triumphant tone of the Executive the inference may not be unfairly drawn that if he finds any more islands lying around loose in the Pacific he will see if the glory of the United States cannot be further enhanced by gobbling them up also. He is altogether pleased with the beauties of the extensive policy of acquisition upon which he has entered.

**Startling Military Statistics.**  
The military statistics furnished by the President will give the people of the country a very striking object-lesson of one of the effects of the new policy. In the whole United States, stretching from the Atlantic to the Pacific across the whole vast continent, containing 70,000,000 of people, there are of the army only about 18,000 officers and men included. In the Philippines there are or will be a very short period 65,000. In Cuba there are 11,000; in Puerto Rico nearly 3,000, and in the Hawaiian Islands about 500. That is, the people of this country must provide more than four times as large an army to keep our new possessions in order as are required at home. Public curiosity as to what the President's views and purposes are on this line will be abundantly satisfied, for there is no attempt to conceal the meaning of his words.

We are to keep our pledge with Cuba, "but" the time is not ripe and it is all indefinite as to when it will be. The President talks very sweetly about Cuba, and yet it is apparent, according to his ideas, "it may be for years, and it may be forever," before we release our iron grip on the gem of the Antilles. Puerto Rico is in due time to have representative government and local government. The mailed hand will have thorough and complete supervision until the people of the island have been properly educated up to the standard of freedom. As said by a Southern member, the kind of government proposed for the island is exactly similar to that which existed in the Southern States under the military commanders during the reconstruction era.

**Friendliness of Filipinos.**  
In regard to the Philippines, the President makes a most remarkable statement. He expresses his conviction that the great mass of the Filipinos are friendly to this Government and anxious for its rule. How can the President possibly be in position to form even an approximately just and correct opinion on this subject? Up to the time of his reception of the last mail ad-

vice our lines were still restricted to within a very few miles around Manila. Neither the Philippine Commissioners nor General Otis, nor any of his officers, have had any opportunity to ascertain the sentiment of the Filipino. As to Manila itself, we have General Otis' own words that a widespread and bitterly hostile sentiment exists there.

The President mimes no words about the Philippines. He is going to "stick." He could not communicate the capture of Aguinaldo, and has to satisfy himself with a repetition of the oft-repeated assurance that the "suppression of the rebellion" is approaching a "speedy completion." Whether it is speedy or not, the President indicates his determination to exhaust all the resources of our country in the pursuit of his object of conquest. The entire absence of any recommendation to Congress for legislation affecting the Philippines is proof sufficient of his opinion that military rule is to continue for an indefinite period.—*Washington Correspondence Baltimore Sun.*

**A SUDDEN INTRODUCTION.**  
The people of Philadelphia tell funny stories of the blizzard of last winter, one of which relates to a certain Mr. K. and his next-door neighbor. The houses were exactly alike, having skylights over the dining-room, and the mass of snow was not only an inconvenience in darkening the room, but was a menace as well. Armed with a shovel, Mr. K. climbed to his roof and removed the snow off his own skylight, when a kindly thought struck him. The widow was a worthy Mrs. M., whom he had never met, but whom his wife knew. He would remove the snow from her roof also. Crossing over the dividing line, he began his work, when crash went the skylight, and down went Mr. K. The next-door neighbor was just at dinner when the gentleman unceremoniously seated himself, shovel in hand, on her table, amid the remains of china and food. Disconcerted for a moment, Mrs. M. quickly regained her composure, and exclaimed politely: "Oh, Mr. K., I am very glad you have called, I've so often heard your wife speak of you."

Few horses go as fast as the money that's put on them.

Losing his balance has brought about many a bookkeeper's downfall.

An uptown storage house announces that its motto is "Keep moving."

The yeast cake may be an early riser, but it only does it for a loaf.

It's funny that we speak of persons being in pain when the pain is in them.

A fellow might be said to have an end in view when he can see his finish.

The average actor spends most of the time when he isn't 'treading the boards' in treading the ties.

Hoax—"I never can bear to see a woman stand in the street car."

Joax—"Same here. I always buy a paper."

Old Lady—"Why do you have such a dirty, grimy face?" Hobo—"I s'pose, lady it comes from travelin' on me cheek."

"Some men," says the Manayunk Philosopher, greatly resemble cheap posters. A little money causes them to be stuck up.

Editor—"I must say I found considerable meat in the poem you left a few days ago." Poet (delighted)—"Indeed, sir?" "Yes; you see the office boy had utilized it for wrapping up his lunch."

**A VOICE IN THE DARK.**—Papa, please gimme a drink of water; I'm so thirsty.

"No; you're not thirsty. Turn over and go to sleep."

A pause.

"Papa, won't you please gimme a drink? I'm so thirsty."

"If you don't turn over and go to sleep I'll get up and whip you!"

Another pause.

"Papa, won't you please gimme a drink when you get up to whip me?"

—Tid-Bits.

A Connecticut graveyard has in it a tombstone on which the visitor may read the following curious lines:

"Here lies the mother of children seven, Three on earth and four in Heaven, Those who died desiring rather To go with mother than to stay with father."

More than one visitor to the churchyard at Brixham, England, has gone away smiling over this verse found on an old tombstone:

"Underneath this stone There lies two children dear, One buried in Ashburton, The other buried here."

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Attorney: You say you had called to see Miss Billings and was at the house the time the burglary was committed?

Witness: Yes, sir.

Attorney: Then how did it happen that when the prisoner dashed into the room and assaulted you, you leaped through the window and went home, making no attempt to defend the lady or give the alarm?

Witness: I thought it was her father.

A BRITISH private soldier named Murphy was brought before the commanding officer at Devonport, charged with selling part of his kit. Said the colonel: "Now, Private Murphy, why did you sell your boots?" "I'd worn them for two years, sorr, an' I thought be that time they was me own property." "Nothing of the sort, man! Those boots belong to the Queen." "To the Queen, is it, yer anner? Sore, thin, I didn't know the lady took twelves!"

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