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The Cleveland administration is the result of "a campaign of education," but the Cleveland school of adversity has its uses.

The assurance of wise action on the part of the House has offset the panicky influences of the President's Friday's message.

A week has not passed, and yet the political capital which the President's friends declared that he would make out of his Venezuelan message is a vanished hope.

The inaction foreshadowed in Speaker Reed's remarks on accepting the caucus nomination and on taking the chair seems to have been set aside by subsequent events.

What a wonderfully handy thing to have just now is two-thirds of the votes in the House! Capable, well-informed and resourceful leaders are also useful in emergencies.

American sentiment has never been for war with Great Britain. It was, however, and is, for the maintenance of the doctrines held by the fathers of the Republic and every statesman who has succeeded them.

In twelve hours after the President's panic message of last Friday the Republican members of the ways and means committee had outlined an adequate response, showing that to-day the party has in Congress men as capable as during the great crisis of the civil war.

Sir Charles Tupper's scheme for making a temporary republic of Canada for war purposes is brilliant, but let not England accept it too quickly. When Canada once becomes a republic it will be in no haste to resume allegiance to the Queen. Governmental freedom is very destructive of monarchical ideas.

Nelson Dingley, jr., the chairman of the committee on ways and means, never had any profession other than that of a newspaper proprietor and editor, creating in twenty years of hard work the most influential and widely read paper in Maine, the Lewiston Journal. Even now he finds time, on occasion, to write a leading article.

The Plain Citizen in New York who wants a department of labor desires to secure it by a constitutional amendment which shall create an immense machine to find employment for all who have it not. He will scarcely succeed in this Congress, but one of the New York papers printed his plan and his portrait for Sunday padding.

Many ministers of the gospel are shocked at the talk of war and are preaching peace, but it is much to be feared that they are wasting their eloquence. Whatever may be true of individuals, no nation has yet arrived at that point of self-sacrifice that when one cheek is smitten it humbly turns the other, also, to receive a blow.

There will be no occasion when a Republican member of the House can be of so great service to the country and to his party as he can be by being in his seat next Thursday and voting for the bills of the ways and means committee. Because it is an occasion of vital importance every Republican absentee has been telegraphed to be present that day.

Senator Harris, of Tennessee, rushes to the front to say that any tariff bill which the House sends to the Senate will be talked to death to prevent a vote on it. Once before when this tempestuous and often overbearing old man undertook to obstruct the majority in carrying out its views he left his State and became an indifferent soldier against the Union.

Those who read between the lines of the extracts from Russian journals will find therein a distinct warning to Great Britain that in the event she gets into war with the United States, Russia will solve the Eastern question by capturing Constantinople and the partition of Turkey. Such warnings are not necessary to make so great a man as Lord Salisbury cautious.

One objection to St. Louis as the location for the national Democratic convention is based on the statement that silver sentiment predominates in the Missouri metropolis. The Globe-Democrat says that a vote on the question of free silver in St. Louis would show a majority of four-fifths against it. It is so quite generally in the larger cities. Outside of the silver States the strength of the silver sentiment is in the South.

The reverend brother who undertook to convince the Methodist Ministers' Association, yesterday, that the color of sin is pink should be labored with. Such a theory is destructive of poetry, sentiment and ideals. Under its sway, what would become of the ocean of cherished literature in which the rose and the maiden's lips and cheeks form such essential parts? These time-honored properties of the poet must not be let go without a struggle.

THE HOUSE PLAN.

The plan agreed upon by the ways and means committee for the relief of the treasury and the strengthening of the public credit embraces measures for the raising of $50,000,000 of revenue by customs duties, the issue of treasury certificates not to exceed $50,000,000 in amount, running not more than one year and bearing 2 per cent interest, to be disposed of at the discretion of the Secretary of the Treasury; five-year 3 per cent. coin bonds to protect the reserve, the greenbacks redeemed in gold to be kept intact in the reserve; the permission of national banks to issue circulation up to the par value of their bonds held by the treasury to guarantee circulation; the reduction of the tax on national bank circulation one-half, and reducing the minimum capital with which national banks may organize to $25,000.

This is a very comprehensive plan and shows the superior intelligence of the Republican advisers over those who have been urging the President to insist upon the suicidal policy of retiring all the greenbacks by issues of bonds, producing a contraction of the currency considerably more than one-fourth. The treasury notes proposed for the immediate remedy of the prevailing deficiencies are the same as Senator Allison proposed a year ago, but were frowned down by Secretary Carlisle. These certificates bearing 2 per cent. interest will be exchanged for greenbacks, which will be put into the treasury to make up the deficiency, thereby making it possible to keep the redeemed greenbacks in the reserve, thus absorbing that portion of these legal tenders which speculators have been using to get gold out of the treasury, and also the notes used by bankers who raid the reserve in the hope of forcing issues of bonds. In connection with the one-year interest-bearing treasury certificates to supply the treasury deficiencies a comparatively small issue of bonds will be necessary to build up the gold reserve when the greenbacks redeemed are held in the reserve.

The tariff provisions of the plan are to put 60 per cent. of McKinley duties on the wool that is now free, and to impose a 60 per cent. compensatory duty on woolen manufactures, from which alone tariff experts expect $25,000,000 of duties. The heavy cuts of the present law into the smaller farm products will be remedied, a duty will be placed upon cotton ties, and that on tin plates advanced. The general duties, except on sugar, are to be advanced 15 per cent.—a horizontal increase. The measure further provides that all these duties will be in force but two and a half years, the purpose being to obtain revenue.

This is the outline of the measure which the Republican leaders in the House propose to pass next Thursday as a response to the President's panicky message of last Friday. It must be done under a suspension of the rules; consequently the Republican member who is not in his seat on that day to help sustain his party in a great crisis should never be elected to Congress again.

FIAT MONEY AND FIAT VALUES.

The stock brokers and others who speak of a shrinkage of values because of the pinch in the speculative market last Friday are as far off as are the advocates of flat money when they hold that it is a value. One of the brokers has put out a statement that the shrinkage in values on that day was $100,000,000 in stocks alone. He proceeds to make a list, and starts off with three denominations of Atchison stock, on which the shrinkage was nearly $12,000,000.

It is a well-known fact that there has not been a dividend on the stock of the Atchison for six or seven years, and that there is no immediate prospect of one. The whole property has recently been sold at auction for much less than half its liabilities. It is utterly useless to speak of value in connection with such stocks, and they should not be quoted on the exchanges. Certificates of stock have little more possibility of value than have the notes issued by the late Confederate government. They are simply the things which men use for betting what they can sell and buy them for. In the same list the New York Central stock, as a whole, is put down as shrinking $3,750,000 in the flurry. The real stocks of that corporation have a dividend-earning value which may be said to be constant. If a number of speculators had agreed, before Friday, to pay the difference between the price named and the selling price of New York Central upon a certain day, and when Friday came the price had been lower and they were compelled to offer their fictitious shares for sale because they could not put up further margins, the fictitious stock—that in excess of the amount issued by the corporation, for which the owners had certificates—would have fallen, but the regular stock held by the Vanderbilts and others, representing a dividend-earning property, was worth just as much as an investment Friday afternoon as it was before the President's Venezuelan message.

The decline of a class of stocks called the industrials was considerable, but for the purposes of speculation, or, to put it candidly, of gambling, the margins of ten times the actual issues of these are the devices of getting or losing money, according as the "bulls" or "bears" are in control. But the point is that the shrinkage reported was not of real values, but the failure of those who had bet on such and such stocks, of little or no value, or on fiat stocks of sound corporations having no dividend-earning value. There was no loss to real property having value because it produces an income.

AND THE SENATE?

Predictions come from Washington to the effect that the Senate cannot be depended upon either to co-operate with the House or to respond to the appeal of the President. At present it contains eighty-seven members, of whom forty-one are Republicans, forty are Democrats and six are Populists. The Republicans lack three of a bare majority. They will lack one of a majority when the Utah Senators are seated, but, if Senator Dubois has been correctly reported, and he speaks for the Republicans from the silver-producing States, the real Republicans will be quite as well off without as with them. This is upon the assumption that Mr. Dubois is correctly reported when he says that the silver Senators will oppose any financial measure which does not make concessions to silver. Republicans in the States which are hostile to the free coinage of silver will wait to see what such Senators as Messrs. Teller, Wolcott, Squire, Wilson, Hansbrough and even Dubois will do when the House bills to strengthen the public credit and give confidence to the country shall come up for a vote in the Senate. A Republican Senator has never voted against such measures in the past, and the Republican party will assume that they will not be the first until, by their votes against such measures, they make themselves either credit-hating Populists or reactionary Southern Democrats of the Harris order.

As for the Democrats of the South, the Harrises, the Calls, the Blackburns, the Bates, and, alas! the Morgans, there is reason to fear that they will be against any measure coming either from the President or the Republican House. Their hearts are full of resentment against the President, and in their intense purpose to humiliate him they may be as unmindful of the public credit as they were in 1860. They are also pernicious silverites, who seem to have reached the acute stage where, to advance the interests of silver, they assume that it is necessary to betray the public credit.

PROMPT RESPONSE OF THE HOUSE.

The Republican House has determined to act promptly in response to the suggestion in the President's message. No holiday recess will be taken, but before New Year's day the House will have passed such measures as, in the judgment of the men of the largest experience in the party in Congress, will bring to the treasury the relief it has long needed. These measures will probably not be such as every individual in or out of Congress would prefer, but they will be sure to be the best things upon which the ways and means committee and its advisers can unite. The bills which Congress will pass, even those regarding the issues of bonds, will not be such as the President would desire, but he will probably accept some of them, as it is clearly within the power of the House to make revenue bills.

This action of the House in resolving to remain in Washington and promptly pass bills that will relieve the treasury will meet the hearty approval of the Republican party and of the thousands who do not count themselves in its ranks, because it discloses an intelligent appreciation of the situation and a patriotic purpose to avert any dangers which may lurk beneath the present conditions. As a public policy, prompt and considerate action is in the highest degree creditable. As a party policy, it will give additional confidence in the statesmanship and the sincerity of purpose of the Republican majority. It will vindicate the intelligence of the country in once more placing the control of legislation in the hands of the party which has time and again displayed the wisdom and courage to solve the most difficult problems and overcome the greatest difficulties. It proves what most intelligent people in this country have from time to time acknowledged — namely, that the Republican party embraces the constructive statesmanship of the country.

That the Republican House will do its duty will inspire confidence in business and industry; that it does not hesitate will give fresh courage to the people.

Rev. Dr. Parkhurst says we must not go to war, but Mrs. Menaugh, of Missouri, holds views of far opposite sort. She writes a poem of fourteen stanzas to a St. Louis paper, in which she expresses her fiery sentiments on the subject. "Oh, Heaven," she says—

Oh, Heaven, close thy gates of peace,
On us be all thy war-hail hurled.
Give us, O God, a mighty chance
To prove the right to all the world.
Let us be thine anointed hosts,
To bring the tyrant to her knees;
To strike her crime-stained crimson flag,
To sweep her commerce from the seas.

After going on at this rate until she is nearly out of breath she closes with this last defiant shout:

Oh, Heaven, close thy gates of peace;
Give back the war days of our birth;
Send forth fierce winds to light our way,
Lend thy wild import to our earth;
Release thy fierce and panting hounds;
Set thy grand import on the sea,
We swear by God! and just! and right!
That Venezuela shall be free!

It is true that Mrs. Menaugh is entirely safe in uttering this "defi," since in the event of war she would not be required to participate, but on the other hand, brother Parkhurst would be exempt from draft and has therefore no personal reason for fearing war. He should read the Missouri woman's impassioned lines and brace up.

The death of Professor Theodore L. Sewall is a distinct loss to the community. Although very quiet and unassuming he was a man of strong character and advanced views, and his influence upon the intellectual and educational life of the city has been a positive force, the extent of which only began to be realized when illness compelled his withdrawal from active participation in affairs. A refined, scholarly, courteous gentleman, he compelled the respect of all who met him in a casual way, while to those who knew him more intimately he revealed traits which caused his friendship to be highly valued. His too-early death will be deeply regretted by a large circle of people.

A Boston paper has a column with the standing head, "Among the Women's Clubs; What They Are Doing and Why." To tell what women's clubs are doing is a fairly big undertaking in itself; to tell why they are doing it is a task too large for any newspaper, and the Boston paper, it may as well be said, is not living up to its headline.

Brotherly love seems to be at a discount in Philadelphia.

ABOUT PEOPLE AND THINGS.

Soap abroad is now made in the form of sheets and sold travelers who object to the use of hotel soaps or those used in public places. It is sold in one hundred-sheet books, each sheet being about the size of an ordinary bank check.

Dean Farrar, of Canterbury, thinks it "perfectly erroneous to talk of the failure of missions, when they started with 120 despised Galileeans, and when now there are 120,000,000 Protestants, and they have in their power almost all the resources of the world."

Don Carlos, the Pretender, is a man of considerable private means. At one time he was a well-known figure in England. For diplomatic reasons, however, he has never been a favorite in royal circles, and of late years has fought somewhat shy of those shores.

An attempt is being made to grow the Australian salt bush in the alkali regions of Arizona. It is similar to alfalfa, and makes an equally good food for stock. If the experiment is successful it will result in the reclamation of vast tracts of land now worthless.

President Crespo, of Venezuela, is a tall, heavy man, with a countenance revealing force and determination. He is very abstemious in his habits and generally goes to bed at 8 o'clock in the evening. He is in the habit of summoning his ministers to him at sunrise. He is fond of cattle ranching, and owns a large number of acres not far from the Venezuelan capital. He is a fine equestrian.

They are very literal in Japan. Not long ago a bridge was built which was so slight that a notice was put up, "No animals allowed to cross." But it was found impossible to keep the rats off, and in order to have a rule which could be enforced, the notice was taken down and "No large animals allowed to cross" was put up in its place.

A very marked change has come over the Prince of Wales of late. Naturally calm and unimpressible, he has grown nervous, restless and discontented. He looks older than his years warrant and his eyes have around them lines that tell of sleepless nights and uncomfortable thoughts. It is said that his physicians have ordered him to curtail the amount of tobacco in which he has been in the habit of indulging.

Louise Michel was born at the Chateau of Vroncourt, in the upper Marne, on May 29, 1830, at 5 in the evening, and registered as the daughter of Mlle. Marie Anne Michel, femme de chambre. She was presented for registration by Dr. Laumond to M. de Mahis, owner of the said chateau, and Mayor of Vroncourt, under the name of Louise. Louise was brought up by M. and Mme. de Mahis and received a distinguished education. As they had no children, it was supposed they would leave her their fortune, but Mme. De Mahis died before her husband, who became her heir, and died suddenly and intestate. Louise then became the village schoolmistress, and was remarkable for her piety. She went to Paris in the sixties, and interested Mme. Jules Simon, who could have obtained her release from the Versailles Orangery in 1871. The favor was offered, but refused, because Louise thought that to accept would be to dessert her fellows in misfortune.

God, give us peace! Not such as lulls to sleep,
But sword on thigh, and brow with purpose knit!
And let our ship of state to harbor sweep,
Her ports all up, her battle lanterns lit,
And her leashed thunders gathering for their leap!

—James Russell Lowell.

BUBBLES IN THE AIR.

Theory.

"The worst tyrant possible is a liberated slave."

"Er—yes. I guess that's the reason so many devoted lovers make such horrid husbands."

Rattled Him.

It greatly confused poor old Santa's
Mind to find that Miss Manties,
When she went to bed,
Had hung up instead
Of her stocking, her bicycle bloomers.

In Doubt.

"I hear that the only man who had any marked success at Billips's poker party was Billips himself."

"Yes; and we haven't figured out to a certainty whether it was his success or the cards that had the marks."

The Cheerful Idiot.

"The saloon," said the prohibitionist boarder, "kills more men every year than war."

"Why shouldn't it?" asked the Cheerful Idiot. "It gets better action, so to speak. In battle only one ball out of every eighty-five takes effect."

Review of the Grandest Army.

Now, up and come with me to-day,
Oh, comrade, tried and true,
For, side by side, we must mount and ride,
To see the grand review.

Saber and sash and stars, my boy,
And a dash through the frosty morn
Of the brightest day, to the best array,
Since you and I were born.

Forward! A touch of the spur will do,
Your old nag gallops well;
What a reveille 'tis for you and me!
How a fellow's heart will swell!

Halt here, on the brow of the ridge, old boy,
For yonder the river runs,
And we'd best pull rein above the plain,
Well out of the way of the guns.

Hark! how the rumble is growing now!
The thunder of hoof and wheel,
And the roll of the drum as the column comes,
And the cavalry's bugle peal.

Grand! It is grand, this shining day,
To see them march once more,
And the glory-lit rags of the shot-torn flags
From every camp and corps.

Right shoulder shifts the bayonet bright,
As the gallant boys advance,
And the sabers ring and the guidons swing
And the held-in horses dance.

Shoulder arms! And that's the salute,
As they pass that rise of ground,
And the blue blades flash and the cymbals crash,
And the cheers of victory sound.

Watch for the faces we used to know
In the long gone battle days,
In the weary tramps, in the fields and camps,
Can you tell them through this haze?

There are Sedgwick, McPherson, Reynolds,
And Wadsworth, and Kearny, too,
But, bless my soul! Who is that on the knoll,
Watching this grand review.

There are faces and names by the score, old man,
To which our hearts once clung,
But there's a mist in my eye as the boys go by,
And I seem to lose my tongue.

For that is Lincoln, there on the knoll,
Oh, brave old soldier mine!
And to the soldiery tread is the march of the dead
Of the boys who died in line.

—William O. Stoddard, in Albany Journal.

THE THING TO DO.

How the Evils Resulting from Democratic Blundering May Be Remedied.

To the Editor of the Indianapolis Journal:

Democratic leaders possess great capacity—that of blundering. In 1861 they so frightfully blundered that, because of cowardly timidity or treacherous inclination they permitted armed rebellion to secure advantages which enabled it to prolong a bloody war—a war which firm and patriotic action would have much shortened if not entirely prevented. During the administration which ended in 1861 they so conducted affairs as to impair the credit of the Nation and compel us to pay 12 per cent. for money. During the present administration they repealed our tariff laws, left the Nation without sufficient revenues to pay the expenses of government in a time of profound peace, and brought on a panic that impoverished hundreds of thousands of good men. Their financial measures have been such as to secure temporary relief at the expense of permanent disease. Within the past few days they have thundered without first ascertaining whether there was cause to thunder, and have so terrified investors as to cause great loss. They have dallied and faltered for months, and then, as a child in a fit of anger, spurt out, not knowing what is the actual condition of affairs. They, by their President, foolishly protest that the Nation is solvent and by their folly arouse suspicion where none existed. They first do all they can to shake confidence and create a panic, thus making securities unsalable and then blindly grope about for money. As always, they have done the wrong thing first and seek to compel Republicans to share with them the responsibility for senseless blunders, and to force the enactment of measures that can only result in financial distress.

Republicans will stand by their country—that goes without saying; but sustaining the administration by adopting Democratic financial measures is a very different thing from standing up for the Monroe doctrine. The thing for Republicans to do is not to do what Democrats want done. This is the safe rule in almost all cases, and is especially so in the present juncture. The thing for Republicans to do, and to do at once, vigorously and determinedly, is to resist all attempts to cure the derangements in financial affairs caused by Democratic incapacity by miserable remedies, which, even if they give temporary relief, will produce incurable disease. The way to do is to go to the root of the financial disease and eradicate it at once and for all by enacting a salutary and sensible protective tariff. REPUBLICAN.

Indianapolis, Dec. 23.

ENGLAND'S GREED.

John Bull Lays Claim to Venezuelan Land Because of Rich Mines.

Pittsburg Dispatch.

The richness of the Venezuelan gold mines, in the region to which Great Britain lays claim, was the subject of an interesting talk by William F. Harrison last evening. Mr. Harrison says that the gold country is entirely covered by the latest British claim, and it is evidently to secure this mineral wealth that the shifting boundary line of British Guiana has been bulged away out to the west, cutting a huge slice, shaped like the hole a hungry boy makes in a piece of bread, right out of the side of the Venezuelan territory. Mr. Harrison is by profession a mechanical engineer. In 1874 he went to Venezuela as the superintendent of a steamer line, owned by an American company, which ran boats from Trinidad up the Orinoco river as far as the old city of Bolivar. Afterward he became interested in a gold mine, of which Remington, the gun maker, of Ilion, N. Y., is the principal owner.

"The gold mining region," said Mr. Harrison, "is on the Yuruari river, in western Venezuela, in what is called Yuruary territory. That river flows into the Ouyuni or Guiana river. Within a radius of nine miles there were then ten or eleven mines in operation, besides a number of small individual camps, where men did placer mining or washed in the streams.

"The quartz there is exceedingly rich in free gold. You can take a lump of it, break it apart like clay and pick out little pieces of pure gold, larger than a pea. Outside of the quartz veins gold is found in the earth or rock for several feet or yards on either side. You can find it along the river banks and in the soil under the forest trees.

"One day I and a friend, a Western miner, went down the Yuruari in a skiff, and, mainly out of curiosity, rowed up a little stream that flowed into the river from the southwest. We had not gone far when we found along the bank what we called good signs. We pulled our boat up and went exploring in the thicket. We came upon a miner's cabin, where there had been tugging for gold many years ago. There was no longer a roof on the hut, and two trees of good size had grown through the floor.

"That cabin had probably been occupied by early Spanish adventurers, perhaps 200 or 300 years ago. Men who walk in the forest at night are in danger of falling into pits made by miners who worked only with a pick and with a shovel. The larger mines are shafts. The one I was connected with was more than 200 feet down when I left there.

"Gold is not the only precious mineral found there. The Indians used to come down from the mountains carrying pure gold and quicksilver, which they traded for whisky. They are much like our Western Indians, only lazier. They will not tell where they get the quicksilver, although the miners would very much like to know.

"In the northern point of the disputed territory, near the mouth of the Orinoco, there are valuable iron mines, but I am not well acquainted with that section.

"All that country is very rich, but there is little agriculture. Some sugar cane is grown and some cocoa. The chief industry is cattle raising. From Guasapati, in the mining region, toward Upati, nearly 150 miles to the northwest, there is a great stretch of pampas almost devoted to cattle grazing. They are raised principally for their hides, and the carcasses are frequently allowed to go to waste. The land is owned in great tracts by rich Venezuelans, who employ scores and even hundreds of peons. The hilly country is covered by thick forests of hardwood, exceedingly valuable for some things, but hardly available for buildings or bridges or railroad ties. Most of it will tear the teeth out of a saw and is impervious to a plane.

"At the time I was there no doubt existed concerning the governmental jurisdiction over this region. It was all under Venezuelan rule. Guzman Blanco was then President. The British line was more than 150 miles to the east of the mining country. Now England claims a great tract of land more than three hundred miles wide, which was twenty years ago indisputably under Venezuelan rule. It takes in all the headwaters of the Cuyuni and Yuruari, with the great hardwood forests, the fertile pampas and the rich mines of gold.

"The Venezuelan soldiers are strangely clad and grotesquely equipped. When I was at Guasapati a little rebellion was going on, and one day a troop of Venezuelan lancers rode into the town and spent the night in the plaza, or public square. The privates were all barefooted. They held their iron stirrup between the big toe and the second toe, and they rested the butt end of the lance on the bare right foot.

"They were no uniform. Some had pants and some had not. Some had shirts and some had not. A few wore short jackets and their headgear was strangely various. Those who had shirts wore them outside of their pants and held in at the waist with a belt. The officers had some sort of uniform and carried swords. The men slept on the ground in the plazas. They were too lazy or too tired to remove the saddles from their horses and use them as pillows.

"Once when I was in one of the cities on the north coast I went to the theater with the American minister to see a French company play 'La Duchesse.' The theater had no roof, and each visitor had to carry with him his own chair or rent one outside of the inclosure. From the side walls there were projecting timbers which we had probably been intended to build a gallery.

"On one of these timbers a soldier was perched with his musket in hand. I went over to him and studied him. The barrel of his musket was covered with rust, the stock was worm-eaten and part of the lock was gone. I described the weapon to the American minister, and he said he would like to have it as a curiosity. I tried to buy it, but nothing would induce the soldier to part with it. Yet it was worthless for shooting purposes.

"As a matter of fact, the soldiers there do not depend very much upon their firearms. The great weapon is the machete, as in Cuba. It is like a short, broad sword and very sharp. It is the knife used for cutting sugar cane. Most of the soldiers there, if they would go into battle would probably throw away their guns after having fired them once, and would draw their machetes, which are terrible weapons at close quarters. Since I left there, however, I understand that the army has been greatly improved in drill and equipment.

"Among the influential and rich people of Venezuela there is the most cordial feeling toward the people of the United States. It is stronger than simple friendliness. There is a general tendency to cultivate the closest relations with Americans and with the American government. Visitors from this country are received with the warmest hospitality. A young American, if he be a decent fellow, though as poor as a church mouse, can marry into the finest and wealthiest of Venezuelan families."

THE PRESIDENT'S METHODS.

An Astonishing Capacity for Doing Things in the Wrong Way.

New York Tribune.

The furious denunciations with which men who have hitherto been his most unreasoning admirers are now assailing the President are due in a large degree to their own bitter mortification. They find that he is just the sort of man which they have always declared him not to be, and are wretched and resentful because he has made them ridiculous. But the truth is that the facts have always been against their main contention, though the demonstration has never been so complete before. They have made it their chief occupation to proclaim that Mr. Cleveland not only did the right thing invariably, but that he invariably did it at the right time and in the right way. In reality his record is stuffed with refutations of their estimate. The President has a singular capacity for doing wrong things, but still more remarkable is his genius for hindering an object he wants to accomplish by the way he goes about it. In this Venezuelan business it is not surprising that he should have provoked harmful wrath in England by words which he had no need to use, and have coupled with his announcement that England was in the wrong the contradictory and illogical proposal of a commission to ascertain whether or not she was in the right. The President's manner of doing a thing has generally been offensive, and his time for doing it often ill chosen, even for his own purposes.

Any man is at liberty, for instance, to hold and proclaim any opinion on the subject of the tariff, and if Mr. Cleveland was convinced that he could promote his own and his party's fortunes in a presidential campaign by discussing and condemning the system of protection, nobody could reasonably object. But how foolish it was to insult the character and intelligence of half the American people by using the commandment against stealing as an argument! But that is Mr. Cleveland's way, and it is an extremely bad and disagreeable way. It is so notorious, however, that it is amazing anybody should suddenly lose his temper over it for the first time. Why, he has just given a second illustration of his familiar habit in connection with the Venezuelan complication by characterizing our financial operations as "fatuous" in an appealing message addressed to the Congress which has just rallied to his support in a remarkable manner. Many more examples of his perversity might be cited, but it would be a waste of time to accumulate proofs of a truism. Part of the stupendous losses which the President has forced his country to bear would have been saved if the things which he has done had been done in a different temper and a different way.

A Christmas Boy.

Ain't got no stockin' big enough fer C'rismus—tried 'em all,
Hung one up by the chimney-place, an' nuther on the wall;
But grandma says that ain't the way, fer Santa Claus prefers
To jest have one big stockin', an' so she'll lend me hers!
Fer I want two drums
W'en C'rismus comes,
An' a bran' new slate, fer doin' sums;
An' firecrackers, and rockets, too,
An' a hobby-horse, an' a wagon, blue,
An' a horn that's most as tall as you—
That's what I want fer C'rismus!

I'm just so good the whole day long 'at grandma says 'at she
Is 'fraid some angel come along an' fly away with me;
I go to bed at 9 o'clock, I'm up w'en daylight stirs;
An' ain't no boy—so mother says—'at's half as good as hers!
Fer I want two drums
W'en C'rismus comes,
An' a bran' new slate, fer doin' sums;
An' I want a sled
That's painted red,
An' a six-blade knife, like his pa gave Ned,
That's what I want fer C'rismus!

—Frank L. Stanton.

THE ABYSSINIANS.

Origin and History of a Remarkable and Interesting People.

George H. Schodde, in New York Post.

Quite a number of circumstances have conspired in recent years to bring into public prominence the mountaineers of "the Switzerland of Africa," the Abyssinians. Not very long ago a Russian expedition, led by a religious zealot, Askeneff, went to Abyssinia ostensibly to prepare the way for a reunion of the Abyssinian with the orthodox church of the East. A few months since King Menelik sent his representatives to St. Petersburg, and they were received and entertained with ostentatious hospitality. For half a decade the Italians have, through diplomacy and war, attempted to secure control of the country, but so far without substantial success.

In more than one respect the Abyssinians are a peculiar people with a record well worth remembering. Of all the remnants and remains of the once so powerful Christian body of the Oriental nations, it is the only one which has been able to maintain its national and characteristic individuality. Since the adoption of Christian civilization in the fourth century the Abyssinians have been able to hold their own even against the modern conqueror. While the Arab hosts overran Egypt and northern Africa, conquered Spain and penetrated almost to the Rhine, they were not able to subdue the sturdy mountaineers in the fastnesses south of Egypt. The Syrian, the Armenian, the Coptic and other Oriental peoples and churches were almost crushed to atoms by the followers of the prophet of Mecca; yet Abyssinia stands to-day, in a petrified, formal state, it is true, a monument of the early Greek culture and Christianity of nearly 1,500 years ago. It has maintained for more than a millennium its independent existence over against the Mohammedan propaganda of the sword.

The singular historical prominence naturally arouses some interest in regard to the pedigree and make-up of this people. While the modern representatives of the Ethiopians of history, they are in reality almost the only people on the whole Dark Continent which are not Ethiopians—i. e., they are not blacks. Their popular designation as Ethiopians is simply another case of lucus a non lucendo. In reality they are Semitic to the core; brethren of the Hebrews, Arabs, Syrians, Babylonians and Assyrians. Being the best known of African peoples except the Egyptians, their name "Ethiopians" was early used as a general term for all the inhabitants of that continent, and accordingly came to signify "black." The Abyssinians are, however, a coffee-colored race, have all the racial peculiarities of the Caucasian, and by their physiological traits and language are clearly distinguished as Semitics. Nobody knows better than they do themselves that they are not natives of Africa, but immigrants from across the Red sea, with original seats in southern Arabia. By a singular coincidence the German traveler Edward Glaser, whose find of inscriptions in southern Arabia has restored to the world the historic kingdom of the Sabaeans, the people of the "Queen of Sheba," has found also in these districts the indisputable signs of the prehistoric Abyssinians. They themselves never use the term Abyssinian, but call themselves the "Geez," i. e., the Free People, as did the "Franks" of central Europe in the middle ages.

The making of the Abyssinian nation is the work entirely of Greek Christianity. It was not Greek culture, nor philosophy, nor civilization in themselves, but all these doing handmaid service to Christianity, which in the fourth century brought the Ethiopia of antiquity upon the stage of history. Although geographically nearest to Egypt, that classic country has never had any influence for good on its southern neighbor. Of the venerable civilization of the land of the Pharaohs, with its pyramids, temples and cities, not a trace is to be found in all Ethiopia. In reality Abyssinian history is in sum and substance a chapter in Oriental church history, and a very interesting chapter at that. The religious element that began the process in the establishment of Ethiopia as a nation has been the controlling element all along, and is now yet the decisive factor in the national character. Divorced from religion, Abyssinia never knew any civilization or any literature. Although sunk into barbaric cruelty, retaining little more than the hull and shell of religion or of civilization, the natives manage to make the most of these. The theatrical King Theodorus, whose cruelty to missionaries caused the British expedition of 1854 into Abyssinia, was perfectly willing to discuss by the hour the fine points in reference to the two natures of Christ, and on the same day order the hands and feet of several hundreds of political opponents to be cut off. The most brutal of Oriental despotism, such as is characteristic of the untamed Semitic heart and is yet seen in the treacherous Arab Bedouin, is found allied in Abyssinia with a fervency of prayer, devotion to fasts and religious services that show what stagnation of religious life may lead to, and would be a historical enigma in the case of this people were not their historical antecedents known.

The Abyssinians for more than a thousand years lived in absolute isolation from the rest of Christiandom, and took no part or share in the historical ups and downs of the rest of the world during all these centuries. When the synod of Chalcedon, in 481, condemned the Monophysitic Church, the Abyssinians, as adherents of their tenets, severed all connection with the Greek Church. A few centuries later came the Moslem armies, and by the capture of Egypt made the voluntary isolation a compulsory one. The Abyssinians, seeing in their peculiar teachings the cause d'etre of the national existence, clung with characteristic Semitic tenacity to them, and when rediscovered first by the Portuguese in the sixteenth century, were found to be practically a petrification of the Greek Christian civilization of the fourth and fifth centuries. This had, however, not been without its benefits. Like the monks and monasteries of the middle ages, it has been the good fortunes of the Abyssinians to preserve a large number of works lost to Graeco-Latin literature, and to develop an extensive literature of its own. The Books of Enoch and of the Jubilees, the Ascension of Isaiah, and others known to early Patristic literature have been retained only in Ethiopic translations.

The present King of "Negus," Menelik, was originally King of Shoa, south of Abyssinia, and is the son-in-law of the former King, the tyrant John, slain in battle with the Mahdi some years ago. Menelik is a gifted man, not unlike his great predecessor, Theodorus, and will give the Abyssinians not a little trouble before he submits to their rule, if indeed he is ever brought to this.

The Christmas Burden.

Washington Post.

This is the season, too, when in the name of merry Christmas one is cheerfully and politely blackmailed right and left. You spend all you can afford to buy presents for the men and women and children you love and want to remember. You spend more that you can't afford in buying presents for people you don't care a rap for, just because they sent you something last year or you know they mean to this Christmas. Then when you're done with all, the bell boy who brings you ice wanter wants you to buy tickets for the Consolidated Bell Boys' Pleasure Club Christmas Ball. You know better than to refuse. The porter wants a donation for his church. The postman and the boy who brings you your paper must be remembered. The elevator man looks things at you if you don't give him his Christmas tip. The waiter must be substantially assured of your appreciation of his services. The messenger boy has a lean and suggestively hungry look. The boy who carries your washing home is on the list, and the boy who sweeps the crossing, and the street corner beggar, and goodness only knows who else. You remember them all—that is, if you haven't an enormous amount of moral courage, and you have a decent regard for your creature comfort, you do, and when you have spent every cent you can beg, borrow or earn, you hear of a dozen charities you really ought to help, and see a dozen unhappy little children who won't have any Christmas at all. Then you sigh, and make up your mind that in all your miseries you have one thing to be devoutly thankful for—Christmas doesn't come but once a year.

SAFETY FOR THE MAILS.

Protests Against the Continuing of the Use of Oil Lamps in Cars.

New York Mail and Express.

The article published on Thursday containing protests from leading bankers and merchants in this city against the lighting of mail cars by oil has attracted widespread attention. An eminent citizen says: "It is inexplicable on any businesslike grounds that in this age of progress and invention the public should be compelled to have mail matter transmitted in dangerously lighted cars; and the wonder increases when it is considered that the postal cars run next to the engines, and are the most likely to leave the rails in the event of an accident."

The losses by fire are not the only ones common. A study of the reports of the general superintendent of the railway mail service for the two years ending June 30, 1895, brings out the fact that during that period seventy-three accidents occurred where mail matter was more or less damaged by saturation with oil from the lamps.

Nor is the loss of valuable mail by any means the only consideration. The lives of many of the railway mail clerks are annually being sacrificed by reason of oil lighted cars. An examination of the exhaustive and very thorough annual report of the Postmaster-general for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1895, will verify this statement. He says: "It is not pleasant to record the fact that 497 accidents occurred to railway postoffices during the year, in which seven clerks were killed and 178 injured while on duty, an increase over last year of 137 accidents and twenty-seven killed and injured." He adds that "during the past ten years 3,185 accidents occurred to railway postoffices, in which sixty-four clerks were killed and 1,500 wounded."

Not only is the general superintendent of the railway mail service fully alive to the question of the proper lighting of postal cars, but also the Second Assistant Postmaster-general, who says in his last report: "The department so far has insisted upon the improved methods of lighting and heating and doing away with the oil lamps wherever it is possible to do so, and will continue its efforts to introduce the most reliable and best adapted methods of lighting and heating.

There is no doubt, too, that the clerks can perform much more and better service with the aid of a bright, steady light than with that afforded by even the best oil lamps.

It is noticeable also that the New York Railroad Commissioners have made a report against the lighting of passenger cars by oil. The same arguments are applicable to the lighting of postal cars, as will be seen by the following quotation: "Success has attended the effort to light passenger cars by gas. Last year the board set on foot in