Subjects that Interest Us

A Humiliating Situation.

"How far, O Catiline, when all is said and done, are you going to abuse our patience?" So said the great Roman orator on a certain famous occasion. Our Catiline is no individual man; it is the party system which has inflicted on us the Porto Rican disgrace. It was obvious to the common sense of every one that, having laid our hands on the island of Porto Rico, there was no decent course to take but to make it, for all practical purposes, an integral portion of the Union. We had cut it off from the market it enjoyed in Spain, and left it to contend with the hostile tariffs of other countries—were we going, in addition to that, to make it a stranger to the land that had seized it, and subject its products to our own high scale of duties? The President, in his message to Congress, conceiving the proposition to be almost self evident, had declared that it was "our plain duty to abolish all customs tariffs between the United States and Porto Rico, and give her products free access to our markets." So thought nearly every disinterested citizen, and yet what have we since seen? The President, terrorized by the cry of party unity in danger, repudiates his former emphatic declaration, and gives his approval to a measure which makes virtually our unfortunate possession a foreign country. With the "free access to our markets" which the President had promised, the island would have entered on a new career of prosperity; but with its leading industries weighed down under an impost of fifteen per cent, there is nothing in view but commercial stagnation and general poverty. That the island has already languished under American rule—our revolutionary forefathers did not expect that their descendants would so soon go into the 'ruling" business—the most disinterested witnesses attest. A leading journal of New York, the *Herald*, prints in heavy faced type the following statement of a correspondent:

"American military officials told me at the outset that the year and a half of American sovereignty had been a blight on the island. This was not the echo of Spanish or of Porto Rican feelings They spoke their own views with soldierly frankness and sometimes with a word of regret for their own position. Their talk was more pointed than when filtered through official channels."

It is in these circumstances that our Legislature, at the instance of a benevolent President, decides to refund to the people of the island two million dollars of duties collected in our ports on their products Our tariff system breeds poverty in the population, it oppresses, and then we rush to their assistance with a largess. They ask for justice and we offer them alms—alms for which the correspondent already quoted says he cannot find a single individual who is grateful. We rob the Porto Rico Peter to pay our own tobacco growing Paul; and then we rob the whole community in order to pay back Peter. And some of us feel virtuous over the business The countenance of the President glows with satisfaction over the thought of all the good he is doing. For our part, we view the matter in a different light. The money will, of course, meet certain expenses of government in Porto Rico; but there is reason to fear that it will do as much to pauperize the island in one direction as the restriction of its trade will do in another? What the Porto Ricans want is not alms, but commercial liberty The repayment of this money will not stimulate their trade; it will not stimulate anything except their helplessness. It is an open question whether they will suffer more by our protection greed or by our wishy washy sentimentality. Meantime what are we to think of the party system whose exigencies place us in so ridiculous a position before the world? How long shall it abuse our patience?—*Popular Science Monthly.*

Insincerity of the Administration.

Cincinnati Inquirer.

The largest possible claims are made for the courageous independence of the Administration of William McKinley. The moment that a convenient necessity presents itself the Administration is in arms to meet it. In small things, it is true, the State Department is active in demanding redress or enforcing a claim, provided the nation which has offended is in poverty or wading through a sea of humiliation In an instant the head and tail of the Administration are in the air, and ugly words of the bloviating kind are used in diplomatic communication. That position is clearly illustrated in the course which Mr. McKinley and his befangled Secretary of State have pursued toward the Sultan of Turkey. The reward must be paid or the Black Sea and the Dardanelles will be made crimson with the blood of the unbeliever. A big game of bluff is played with the hope of distracting the attention of the country from the pusillanimous policy of the Administration of William McKinley with Great Britain. The Turkish bluff will fail of its purpose. The few thousands of dollars which arbitration has awarded to the United States will not be permitted to hide the naked cowardice shown to England in the treaty which permits the United States to build the Nicaragua Canal. In the history of our country's diplomacy there is not a single incident which so completely humiliates our Government as the position forced upon us by the Ministry of England in the construction of the canal across the isthmus England permits us, provided we get the consent of the Central American countries, to construct a canal between the oceans at an expenditure of $200,000,000, but forbids us expending one cent in erection of defenses for its protection. To England our diplomats have said "If you please, we will construct a canal through territory over which you have no control and over which we are pledged that neither Great Britain nor any other Government ever shall have control; but we know you are sensitive and we recognize the fact that 'you have the ships, you have the men and you have the money, too,' and therefore we humbly petition you to permit us to make a water way which will unite the waters of the oceans" That petition is granted with the proviso "that the canal on which you are to expend hundreds of millions of dollars shall be free to the world and that the United States shall not have the right to erect a single work of defense for its protection," That covenant was made by Secretary Hay and the British Ambassador at Washington.

Now compare the give away of the Monroe Doctrine—the abject submission of the rights of our country—with the indecent bluster in which the McKinley Administration is indulging in its petty quarrel with the Sultan of Turkey. Examine closely into the reasons for the cringing obeisance the Administration is giving for the dastardly assault of the British on the Republics of the Transvaal and the Orange Free State. Ask why the Administration of William McKinley has suppressed in Congress every effort that has been made to express sympathy for the struggling Boers. Ask why the boundary line between the Canadian possessions and our territory of Alaska has not been determined. Let the flunky diplomacy of Hay make response to the outraged sentiment of the people of the United States for the subserviency shown toward Great Britain. The Turkish reward is not a flea bite to the infamous, unjust conduct of the English Government toward the United States.

Mr. McKinley and his serving man, whose taste and patriotism were acquired in England, should have sense enough not to blow penny whistles when they have opportunity to thunder against the aggression and effrontery of England

Fighting Ground of the Next Campaign.

Upon returning from an eight weeks' trip to Europe last Saturday, Mr. O. H. P. Belmont said:

"I was astounded to hear of Admiral Dewey's candidacy. I do not think from any standpoint of politics that the Admiral's bid for the Presidency is important. I am exceedingly sorry that he should have been led into so unfortunate a situation.

"As a matter of fact, I think the nominations are already made. The respective tickets this year will be headed by the same men as in 1896—McKinley and Bryan. It is my candid opinion that should Admiral Dewey run as an independent candidate, he will draw more votes from McKinley than from Bryan. As between Bryan and Dewey, no true Democrat would vote for Dewey, for it is well known that Dewey is a Republican at heart.

"Much has been said in my absence concerning the relegation of silver to a minor position in the campaign. I do not regard finance as an issue in the Presidential struggle of this year; it is purely academic. The matter has been practically shelved by the action of the present Congress

"I do not think public interest centers on the financial question. It rests rather on imperialism and the trusts. It is upon this line that the campaign of 1900 will be fought.

"I consider the battle ground of the campaign of this year to be centered in the States of Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, and New York. I believe that Bryan will carry these States, and be triumphantly elected. I regard Kentucky and Maryland as politically safe for the Democracy."

Eliminating the Negro.

"Of more vital interest to the people of North Carolina than any other question which is to be settled at the coming election is the matter of the constitutional amendment which is to be voted upon," said Mr. J. A. Mason, of the Tar Heel State, in this city the other day. "Without making any apologies for it, and I don't know that any are needed, the purpose of the amendment is to eliminate the negro vote. North Carolina is now about the only one of the Southern States where the negro still remains a dangerous political factor, and the failure to take action along the line proposed has been the source of great grief to our people. It is simply a question as to whether the white man or the colored man shall govern. We have been cursed with negro rule, and propose to put an end to it for all time. Other States have eliminated the negro and have prospered, and in States like Georgia the white people seem to handle the negro satisfactorily. As the great strength of the Republican party in the State comes from the negro element, of course they are opposing it, and to considerable extent are some of the Populists whose only hope of success is by co-operation with the Republicans; but when the time for voting comes it will be found that the white people will rise in their might and declare for white supremacy."

TRUST BRUTALITY.—Over twelve thousand men are said to have been thrown out of work by the new move of the Steel and Wire Trust. The Sugar and Tobacco Trusts have also dispensed with a good deal of assistance. When the Presidential campaign opens there will be a good deal of analyzation of the claim that the trust system assures continuous employment for all who want to work at high wages. The truth is that the success of the trusts depends largely on the cheapness of labor, and the trust managers get their work done at as low a figure as possible, and when they get overstocked they discharge men without compunction. There is no sentiment about these gentlemen.

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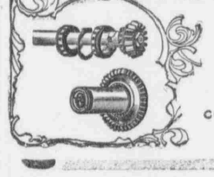

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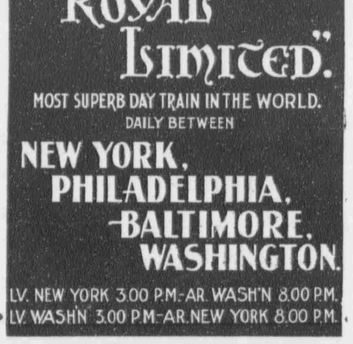

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