

The Sun

WILLIAM M. LAFFAN.

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Steering the Right Course.

The Republican members of the Ways and Means Committee unanimously agreed on Saturday to recommend to a Republican caucus to be held to-morrow a plan of reciprocity, pure and simple, as a measure of relief for the Cubans. The concession contemplated at present is twenty per cent. of our tariff rates on imports from the island. The only conditions imposed are an equivalent reduction on the Cuban duties on our products, and the enactment, by Cuba, of immigration laws similar to those of this country.

This step of the Ways and Means Committee is by far the most encouraging thing that has happened since the President, and the Secretary of War called the attention of Congress to the imperative need of reciprocity legislation, as a measure both of moral justice and of commercial expediency. The heart of the American people responded quickly to the suggestion. The cardiac action of the tariff-making department has been somewhat more sluggish.

Reciprocity ought to be the circumstances demand. Time enough has been lost through the mercenary opposition of certain persons, the timidity of others who feared or pretended to fear an overthrow of the entire protective system, and the able but obstructive efforts of the compromisers, the disingenuous, and the whippers of the devil around the stump.

The Ways and Means Committee had been wandering this way or that in confused indecision, or sitting still in helpless inaction, or starting in the right direction by a courageous younger man named LONG, himself from a best-root stock. It is now on the right course. Nothing need be changed except one or two Arabic numerals. A twenty per cent. reduction is inadequate.

A Plan of Military Rewards.

It is said to be the intention of the Secretary of War to apply for legislation creating a "Distinguished Service" medal, to be given to officers and men of both the army and the navy who have distinguished themselves, not necessarily under fire. This medal, Mr. Root thinks, should carry some increase of pay, and he believes it would go away with the injustice of jumping officers over the heads of their seniors in order to reward them.

The model for Mr. Root's proposed medal is said to be the British "Distinguished Service Order." This, however, is restricted to commissioned officers; enlisted men receive "Distinguished Conduct" badges, which carry increased pay, as does the Victoria Cross when given to an enlisted man. Officers appointed to the Distinguished Service Order, or receiving the Victoria Cross, get no allowance therefor. No matured plan of rewards for military and naval service has ever been offered in this country, and Mr. Root's plan has much to commend it.

At the same time that Mr. Root is considering the creation of a Distinguished Service medal, it may be noted that some criticism has arisen in England over the Victoria Cross, the Distinguished Service Order and the Distinguished Conduct medal. This criticism is that these rewards tend to foster individual acts of bravery rather than work directed to the general welfare—individual rather than "team play." Doubtless this complaint might be met and prevented by careful drafting of the rules governing the bestowal of the medals, and if Mr. Root's scheme is embodied in a law, it is certain that every precaution will be taken by the Secretary to prevent such weakness in the system.

Weyler and the Troubles in Spain.

Well-informed persons have expected ever since the close of the Spanish war that there would be trouble in Catalonia, which lost the chief market for its manufactures when the Spanish Antilles and the Philippines were ceded to the United States. Since the close of 1898, the export trade of Barcelona alone is calculated to have fallen off by about fifteen million dollars per annum, while the remittances of money that used to be made by colonial traders to Catalan bankers for investment have ceased. Under the circumstances it is not surprising that a strike in Barcelona should have alarming consequences.

A majority of the population, not only in the city, but throughout Catalonia, is disaffected, and believes that a restoration of prosperity is attainable only through home rule. The economical question is thus intertwined with a political one. There is, however, a difference of opinion as to how far home rule should go. There are, in fact, two political factions, the Separatists and the Autonomists. The Separatists cannot forget that the Catalonians speak a different tongue from the Castilians; that the two peoples were not even connected by a dynastic bond until the early years of the sixteenth century, and that, since the Emperor CHARLES V. began to weld them together, Catalonia has repeatedly revolted against the connection with Castile. The Separatists themselves are divided between those who wish to see Catalonia an independent State and those who recognize her inability to make head single-handed against the rest of Spain, and who, in their dislike of the Castilians, would be willing to see their country annexed to

France. The latter remember that a dynastic union long existed between Catalonia and the southern part of Languedoc.

The division among the Separatists and the evident impracticability of independence have of late tended to give greater strength to the Autonomists, who merely demand that Catalonia, through a provincial legislature of its own, shall have complete control of its local affairs. Gen. WEYLER, who is a native of the Balearic Isles, stands alone among the Madrid politicians in looking with a certain amount of favor on the demands of the Catalonian Autonomists. The others occur to the belief that the Autonomists of to-day would become Separatists on the morrow of their victory.

If the whole military power of the Spanish Government were employed for the purpose, there is no doubt that any overt expression of discontent in Catalonia could be suppressed. Among Conservatives, however, there is some suspicion of Gen. WEYLER's willingness to take sufficiently rigorous measures; this is the ground of their attack on the Sagasta Government in the Cortes. The Conservatives, however, have only their own breach of faith to thank for the existing disaffection in northeastern Spain. When Gen. POLAVIEGA came into power in 1899 in coalition with SILVELLA, he virtually promised the inhabitants of Valencia an administrative division of Spain into Cantons, each having its own local laws. To a considerable extent these Cantons were to be modelled on the States in the American Union. Relying on POLAVIEGA's promise, the Valencianos began to issue Cantonal postage stamps, but they soon discovered that the Conservatives had no intention of fulfilling their agreement.

Whenever an uprising occurs in Spain, we hear reports that it has been fomented by Don CARLOS. However eager the Carlists may be to fish in troubled waters, there is no reason to suppose that they can turn the present disorders in Catalonia to the account of their own faction. Neither are the Anarchists to be seriously feared. What is much more dreaded at Madrid is the emergence of a brand-new political party headed by Gen. WEYLER, which would put forth a military pronunciamento, seize the Government, and with the support of the army, proclaim a republic. That such a conjunction of names and deeds should be apprehended, is not surprising, since Don CARLOS has always been a Republican.

The Man in the Woman's Club.

It is not impolite to compare the useful with the sweet, it may be said with truth that Chicago is not more renowned for stockyards than for women's clubs; and the latter must increase and the former decrease. Literature, aesthetics, all the finer arts and feelings, all the subtleness of thought and the refinement of speculation are crowding out the more material and practical side of life in Cook county. The Chicagoans are far from being ashamed of the stockyards. They have a pride, those of them who are not vegetarians, in the swiftness and dexterity of the operations there carried on. But they have given up insisting that their guests shall be taken to a slaughtering match; and the sensibilities of visiting poets and Princes will be respected.

The swift growth of the higher culture and life in Chicago has been brought about, in large measure, by the women's clubs. The multifarious and beneficent activity of these associations is almost beyond belief. From street cleaning to the opinion of PYTHAGORAS concerning wild fowl, from golden buck to nirvana, from Middle English to the best remedy for warts, there is nothing which they don't discuss with perfect openness of mind. Much too much has been written about the Provencal courts of love. These Chicago clubs are a kind of universal courts of appeal. They consider and decide all questions. In fact, there is some complaint that there may not be questions enough left to go around, so industrious are the judges.

We have not the statistics at hand, but we can certify, to the best of our impression and remembrance, that every woman in Chicago is expected to belong to at least one woman's club; and thousands belong to tens if not hundreds of such clubs. From the sovereigns of society to the sovereigns of the kitchen, through all the feminine ranks, flows the gregarious spirit, the desire for self-improvement, the resolve to improve the world by setting at club meetings all its problems. Thus, and rapidly, and not gradually, the Chicago women have elevated their minds until the Chicago men, with a soul above the tucker and the wheat pit have become alarmed. They tremble with premonition of the absolute independence of women, perhaps of gynocracy and the gray mare the better horse.

What can they do? The women have a long start of them and more time to plough and harrow the mind. To forbid the women to assemble in clubs is impracticable. The club women boast that they don't give up to their clubs what was meant for their families. Their children are as clean as face and frock as children can be. The hands that wield the gavel can whip up an omelet and find their way as easily in the cook book as in Mr. CRISHING's manual. The men have no reasonable ground for complaint, but they suffer from an uneasy sense of inferiority. "Don't spare me, please," said Prof. ARTEMUS WARD of Baldwinville to the lady who asked if it was her "spere" to be the "ser-laved" of a domineering man; and prodded ARTEMUS with her umbrella. The Chicago men feel the spear prong in their midests and have to write.

Fortunately a little gleam of relief is visible. The Hull House Women's Club, a proud and intellectual concern, deep in sociology and most other ologies, has elected Mr. JOSEPH T. BOWEN an honorary member. Not a vote was cast against him. Mrs. BOWEN was one of the founders of the club. As the only man in Chicago who has the honor of belonging to a woman's club, Mr. BOWEN has fame in abundance. The door has been opened once. Will it not be thrown

open again and again until man is irradiated by the intelligence and uplifted by the energy of the women's clubs? Will not the club women pity and rescue the poor, downtrodden victims? As yet the question is *sub judice*. Some of the club women are disposed to be kind; others from unwelcome and shoo the intruder away. "I don't object to men," says Miss CATHERINE GOOGIN, "who said I did? I may have reasons for not marrying one of them, but none for shutting them out of club dues and discussions." "Men are good things," says Dr. DECKINSON encouragingly. But Mrs. OTTO MATZ is afraid that men will not take the matter seriously enough, and Mrs. ELVIRA SPRINGER, "the well-known suffragist," snaps out: "Yes! let the men pay the dues and arrange the tea tables and receive the ladies, but don't let them vote election day!" Poor fallen man! Must he keep on falling?

Still, a word to the wise, if any there are. If the women let the men into the women's clubs, be sure that the women can't be kept out of the men's clubs.

Earlier Manners in the Senate.

The unfortunate affair in the Senate Chamber on Saturday led one of the statesmen present to speak of the somewhat similar encounter, half a century ago, between THOMAS H. BENTON of Missouri and HENRY S. FOOTE of Mississippi. This incident occurred almost at the close of BENTON's thirty years' service in the Senate. Neither participant had been especially distinguished for serenity of temper or moderation of language under provocation. For example:

In the Twenty-second Congress, during a debate on Gen. JACKSON's veto of the bill re-chartering the Bank of the United States, Mr. BENTON accused HENRY CLAY of using indecorous language about the President. This interesting colloquy ensued:

"Mr. CLAY—There are some peculiar reasons why I should not go to that Senator for my views of decorum, in regard to my bearing toward the Chief Magistrate, and why he is not a fit instructor. I never had any personal encounter with the President of the United States. (BENTON had been invited to a street fight with Gen. JACKSON in Nashville in 1818.) I never complained of any outrage on my person committed by him. (JACKSON had struck BENTON with a horse-whip.) I never published any bulletins respecting his private vices. \* \* \* I never declared my apprehension and belief that if he were elected we should be obliged to fight with pistols and dirks by our side."

"Mr. BENTON—It is true, that I had an interview with Gen. JACKSON, and that I did complain of his conduct. We fought, sir, and we fought, I hope, like men. When the explosion was over there remained no ill will on either side. \* \* \* There is no 'adjoined question of veracity' between us and Gen. JACKSON. If there had been, a gulf would have separated us, as deep as hell."

"Mr. CLAY—Gen. JACKSON made a certain charge (of bribery) against me, and he referred to witnesses to prove it. I denied the truth of the charge. He called upon his witness to prove it. I leave to the country whether that witness sustained the truth of the President's allegation. The witness (Mr. BUCHANAN) is now on his passage to St. Petersburg, with a commission in his pocket. (Mr. CLAY referred to the first and pistol remark attributed to Mr. BENTON.) Can you look me in the face and say you never used that language?"

"Mr. BENTON—I look, sir, and repeat that it is an atrocious calumny; and I will pin it to him who repeats it here."

"Mr. CLAY—Then I declare before the Senate that you said to me the words before the Senate."

"Mr. BENTON—Fling back the charge of atrocious calumny upon the Senator from Missouri."

Senators interposed between the two infuriated statesmen, and the Chair finally secured order in the chamber. The subsequent proceedings were these:

"Mr. BENTON—I apologize to the Senate for the manner in which I have spoken; but not to the Senator from Kentucky."

"Mr. CLAY—To the Senate I also offer an apology. To the Senator from Missouri none."

AS FOR Mr. FOOTE, the fire-eater with whom Mr. BENTON came into physical collision on the floor of the Senate about twenty years after the foregoing incident, his habits of speech were more than Tillmanian. A single instance will suffice. The Mississippi statesman had been accusing Senator HALE of New Hampshire of being "as guilty as if he had committed highway robbery," in promoting a certain bill which FOOTE conceived was an attack on the institution of slavery. Turning to Senator HALE he said:

"Mr. FOOTE—I invite him to visit Mississippi; and I will tell him beforehand, in all honesty, that he could not go ten miles into the interior before he would grace one of the tallest trees of the forest, with a rope around his neck, with the approbation of every honest and patriotic citizen; and that, if necessary, I should myself assist in the operation."

If anybody thinks that the scene of Saturday, so exceptional nowadays, indicates a deterioration of manners, then let him turn to the earlier records of what has become the most dignified and courteous legislative body in the world.

Col. Bryan's Visit to New York.

It is reported from Columbus that Col. BRYAN, after a conference with Col. JAMES KILBOURNE, defeated Democratic candidate for Governor of Ohio, will arrive in this town to-day for the purpose of conferring with "Democratic leaders" hereabouts. This must mean Dr. JOHN H. GIBBNER and others of the always faithful. Most of the New York Democratic leaders are at present sighing for harmony and a new deal, whereas Col. BRYAN is committed irreconcilably to stale issues and dead platforms. A conference between the reorganizers and the illustrious disorganizer seems unlikely; and even a dollar dinner will be perilous since the Colonel has begun to send copies of the editorial drippings of his fire-tipped pen to be read at Democratic feasts. But he likes the enemy's country, and perhaps he finds a possible charm in being in the same town with Wall Street; and there will be an affecting meeting between him and the Hon. CHARLES A. TOWNE. Perhaps Col. BRYAN means to form a society of Bryanite plutocrats who have got rich since 1900. He is supposed to be doing very well himself.

We suspect, however, that the real motive of Col. BRYAN's visit is his desire to get away from Nebraska, a State indecently prosperous and wholly regardless of his defeat. The Secretary of the Nebraska Banking Board counts up deposits of more than \$87,000,000 in

the State and national banks, an increase of \$18,000,000 in the last year and an average of \$70 for every man, woman and child in the State. What do the surviving old "per capity" Populists of Nebraska think of that? The dollar is above the man, and the man is glad.

Wherever Col. BRYAN goes to shake off his grief over the flourishing condition of his State, new cause for grief awaits him. The same story is told all over the country. The folks are busy, thriving, contented, not very hot about political questions, satisfied with well enough. Are trusts monsters of so frightful mien as Col. BRYAN loves to describe them? Then it is strange that business is so brisk and collections are prompt. Is imperialism going to ruin the country? The country is uncommonly happy about it.

It must be that Col. BRYAN comes to condole rather than confer.

Young Mr. Platt of Connecticut.

President ROOSEVELT has appointed JAMES H. PLATT of Meriden, a son of Senator ORVILLE H. PLATT, United States District Judge for the district of Connecticut. Senator HAWLEY wanted another man to have the job, and the Hartford lawyers were much opposed to the Meriden candidate. Mr. PLATT did not ask for the appointment of his son, whose only alleged disqualification seems to be that he is a Senator's son.

Some of the Democratic papers pretend to be very much exercised about the appointment. The *Albany Argus* asks if it is "reasonable to suppose JAMES H. PLATT would have been appointed, if he were not his father's son."

It is entirely reasonable so to suppose. Mr. JAMES H. PLATT is a man of character, ability and education. His fitness to be a District Judge is vouched for by men who are thoroughly qualified to give an authoritative opinion, such men as Judge WILLIAM K. TOWNSEND, Dean WAYLAND of the Yale Law School and the Hon. THOMAS M. WALLER of New London, a distinguished lawyer and Democrat. Democratic journals which find fault with this appointment must be mighty hard up for subjects.

May there be a maximum of sunshine for Prince HENRY during his visit, and a minimum of slush of all kinds!

It is dangerous for Legislatures to dabble in botany. A few years ago the Minnesota Legislature appointed the mimosas in flower, which it called *Cypridium colococtus*, State flower. The ladies of the St. Anthony Study Circle declare that the variety appointed by the Legislature doesn't grow in Minnesota, and that the name of the mimosas in flower that does is *Cypridium repens*. The ladies of the St. Anthony Study Circle declare that the variety appointed by the Legislature doesn't grow in Minnesota, and that the name of the mimosas in flower that does is *Cypridium repens*.

During the debate over the supplemental estimates submitted to the House of Commons recently, it appeared that the South African war has cost about \$149,500,000, or \$724,000,000. Of this amount, \$31,500,000,000, or 21 per cent., has been spent since 1900-1901, while the complete estimates for 1901-1902 amount to \$58,000,000. During the last fiscal year, the war cost four and one-half million pounds a month; it is costing now about one million pounds a month less than formerly. Lord KITCHENER has been able to economize a little of late, and by purchasing some supplies in South Africa is said to have saved nearly 30 per cent.

How much this amount amounts to, did not appear in the debate. Cape Colony has taken back its colonial forces, which under its law could not be used outside of the Colony, and has relieved His Majesty's Government of some expense.

A TRIP THROUGH BORNEO.

Progress in Rajah Brooke's Domain.—The Natives and the Jungle Folk. NINE, Feb. 15.—Frederick Taylor, F. R. G. S., who has just made a twelve months' tour of Borneo and other countries of the East, told a correspondent of THE SUN his impressions of Borneo recently.

At Singapore Mr. Taylor met Sir Charles Brooke, Rajah of Sarawak, through whose kindness the freedom of Sarawak and Borneo was extended to him. The Rajah, Mr. Taylor said, was a hale and hearty man of 70, who impressed him as a rare specimen of manhood; a man having a thorough knowledge of men, whose word was law and could not be broken. The Rajah, he said, has continued to improve a third of the island of Borneo, the once impenetrable jungle has been reclaimed so that this part of Borneo has now outstripped its neighbors in civilization and commerce.

"The trip up the Sagama River from its entrance into the sea to the interior," said Mr. Taylor, "there civilization is left behind. A London gold dredging company recently carried on operations there, but owing to the frequent floods abandoned the work after seven months' tedious work, the amount of gold found not justifying the expenditure."

"The country there is one vast wilderness of lagoons and marshes, where birds, crocodiles and wild animals are plenty. Canoeing on the river was difficult on account of the frequent floods, and the current driven by the swift current. In some places, too, the river was so shallow that we were forced to carry or drag the canoes over the river bed."

"The sufferings of the poor, ill-fed watermen were pitiable. Their shacks are scattered along the banks of the Sagama and the stunted creatures themselves wander about in a state of semidivinity, living as best they can by fishing and trapping small game, as they have no firearms."

"Some of the men, who are employed to carry the mail, which is enclosed in a small bamboo stick sealed with gum. They are hired out as boatmen by their masters and are sometimes employed to gather edible birds' nests, obtained by climbing their little precipitous rocks and squeezing their little bodies through almost inaccessible apertures into caves where the nests are to be found."

"In contrast to the little men just alluded to come the Bichus or sea pirates of Darvel Bay, who are in fact the greatest terror of the forest. They, as well as the head hunters or Dyaks of the north, are being fast subdued by the advance of civilization, and their deeds, like those of our red men, will soon be a theme of romance."

"As for the notorious 'wild man of the forest,' he is quite a myth, having fled to still more remote regions."

"All day there is a silence in the jungle, except the occasional chirp of a bird, the continual whirr and buzz of the innumerable insects, create within one a strange feeling. The orang-outang, or bintah, as they are called, is seldom seen, and when you do try to get a shot at one he gets out of the way quickly and the thickly interlaced branches of the tallest trees, which are built for himself and family, a sort of hut."

"Here, too, there are pythons in number which frequently attain a length of twenty feet, and are used by the natives to manure their fields. The pythons are said to be the python's hiding place unarm."

"Rouset pythons is considered a great luxury by the natives, especially as the reptiles are difficult to capture. I saw one, a monster, which was caught in the act of swallowing a young deer. Its head and horns were protruded from the snake's mouth, and while in this dilemma the men came upon it and gained a double prize, as they not only ate the meat of the python and the venison of the deer followed."

"At Balikpapan, the centre of the Borneo oil fields, there are fifty or sixty European expeditors to Lake Toba, to take petroleum to the country. Bahah defeated and killed Bretonnet and a large part of his force. A little while before this event Bahah had captured a peaceful Frenchman named Behaghe, who had been sent to study commercial possibilities in the Sudan and the Sahara. It is known at Balikpapan that Bahah put his white prisoner to death. It had been supposed from native reports that Bahah had never been defeated and thought no power was strong enough to cope with him. When the French sent the Bretonnet expedition to Lake Toba, Bahah defeated and killed Bretonnet and a large part of his force. A little while before this event Bahah had captured a peaceful Frenchman named Behaghe, who had been sent to study commercial possibilities in the Sudan and the Sahara. It is known at Balikpapan that Bahah put his white prisoner to death. 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