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Editorial Correspondence

Washington, May 21—The country is beginning to find out that it has a man for President who can say things as well as do them. There is no reminder of any of our recent presidents in the oratory of Theodore Roosevelt. It has nothing in common with the elephantine ponderousity of Cleveland's slow and heavy sentences, and but very little with the gracefulness of Harrison's, or the pleasing fluency of McKinley's; but in the power of saying what he wants to say in direct, blunt, incisive Anglo-Saxon, with no more ornamentation on his sentences than there is on a spear, Theodore Roosevelt is easily the equal of the greatest of his predecessors. The earnestness that is the foundation of all eloquence is his always, and the faculty of going straight to the heart of a matter which is the sign manual of strong common sense is never lacking.

I do not know whether the REGISTER has published in full the speech which the President made at a Presbyterian missionary meeting in New York last night, but if it has not, I am sure nothing I could write would be of so much interest to its readers, and I therefore enclose it. And will you please take note as you read it how effectually and completely the President strips the hide from the Carmack and the Tillmans and the other easy chair critics who have been maligning the army? Note this, for example:

"We need display but scant patience with those who, sitting at ease in their own homes, delight to exercise a querulous and censorious spirit of judgment upon their brethren who, whatever their shortcomings, are doing strong men's work as they bring the light of civilization into the world's dark places. The criticism of those who live softly, remote from the strife, is of little value, but it would be difficult to overestimate the value of the missionary work of those who go out to share the hardship, and while sharing it, to wage war against the myriad forms of brutality."

That isn't exactly saying that Senator Hoar and others like him are suffering from "an overheated conscience," or that the Speaker would rather see some of these easy chair critics hanged than to see one of our soldier boys dead on the field, but it is near enough to it to make General Funston feel as if the recent rebuke which he received from the White House was largely proforma, and it is near enough like it to suggest to the senators who have been so fiercely assailing General Funston that the castigation which he gave them was but an affectionate caress in comparison with the lashing they would have got if Theodore Roosevelt were just returned from the Philippines with the star of a brigadier on his shoulder instead of being mewed up in the White House.

And there is another sentence in that speech that is worth remembering the one which follows the allusion to the creation of the Cuban Republic:

"That has represented four years' work—blunderings and shortcomings in the work, of course, and there were men of little faith who only saw the shortcomings and the blunders—but it represents work triumphantly done."

How small and mean and self-contemptous such a sentence must make the men who have been carping and complaining and snarling and sneering at the work we have been doing in Cuba these past four years.

And what ample compensation to the brave men of the army and navy for all the slings and arrows that have been showered upon them by the Democratic leaders in House and Senate there must be in this commendation of the President:

"The moment I wanted men who could drop the work they were engaged upon, assured that neither pestilence nor volcano would make them swerve from their duty; men of incorruptible integrity, I turned to the army and navy."

But here is the speech, and every word of it is worth remembering:

It is a pleasure on behalf of the people of the United States to bid you welcome on this hundredth anniversary of the beginning of organized home missionary work by the Presbyterian Church. In one sense, of course, all fervent and earnest church work is a part of home missionary work. Every earnest and zealous believer, every man or woman who is a doer of the word and not a hearer only, is a life-long missionary in his or her field of labor—a missionary by precept, and by what is a thousandfold more than precept, by practice. Every such believer exerts influence on those within reach, somewhat by word, and infinitely more through the ceaseless yet well-nigh unseen pressure, all the stronger when its exercise is unconscious, of example, of broad, loving, charitable neighborliness.

But tonight we celebrate a hundred years of missionary work done not incidentally, but with set purpose; a hundred years of earnest effort to spread abroad the Gospel, to lay deep the moral foundation upon which true national greatness must rest. The century that has closed has seen the conquest of this continent by our people. To conquer a continent is rough work. All really great work is rough in the doing, though it may seem smooth enough to those who look back upon it, or who gaze upon it from near. The roughness is an unavoidable part of the doing of the deed. We need display but scant patience with those who, sitting at ease in their own homes, delight to exercise a querulous and censorious spirit of judgment upon their brethren who, whatever their shortcomings, are doing strong men's work as they bring the light of civilization into the world's dark places. The criticism of those who live softly, remote from the strife, is of little value, but it would be difficult to overestimate the value of the missionary work of those who go out to share the hardship, and while sharing it, to wage war against the myriad forms of brutality. It is such missionary work which prevents the pioneers from sinking perilously near the level of the savagery against which they contend. Without it the conquest of this continent would have had little but an animal side. Without it the pioneer's fierce and rude virtues and somber faults would have been left dark by the flame of pure and loving aspiration. Without it the life of this country would have been a life of incomceivably hard and barren materialism. Because of it, deep beneath and through the national character there runs that power of firm adherence to lofty ideal upon which the safety of the nation will ultimately depend. Honor, thrice honor, to those men for three generations, during the period of this people's great expansion, have seen that the force of the living truth expanded as the nation expanded. They bore the burden and heat of the day, they toiled obscurely and died unknown, that we might come into a glorious heritage. Let us prove the sincerity of our homage to their faith and their works by the way in which we manfully carry toward completion what under them was so well begun.

NATIONAL RIGHTEOUSNESS

Coming up here tonight I made up my mind to speak to you of the manifestations of the spirit of national righteousness, of something that has taken place this day and of something that has happened within ten days; of the action of this nation which culminated in the creation today and in starting a new republic on its course. That has represented four years work, —blunderings and short comings work of course, and there were men of little faith who only saw the shortcomings and the blunders—but it represents work triumphantly done. We have the right to feel proud that we have kept every pledge to the letter and established a sensational precedent. I don't remember another such case—and I have looked for one with care—a case where as the result of such a war the victorious nation has contented itself by starting a new nation, free, on the difficult path of self-government.

More anarchy and ruin would have been before the island if we had been satisfied with the victories of war and left its people to shift for themselves. For four years our representatives in the island have been representatives largely of the army. I sometimes hear the army attacked. Still when great work is to be done, in peace or war, it is good to have the army to depend upon. Our representatives worked to build up the school system, to establish sanitary measures, to preserve order, and to prepare for the startling of industries that the new government might begin with the chances in its favor. Now, as a nation, we bid it Godspeed, and we intend to see it has all the aid we can give it. I trust and believe our people in the National Legislature will see to it shortly that they have the advantage of entering into peculiarly close relations with our economic system.

That is one deed consummated today. Now for the other. Ten days ago an appalling calamity befell another portion of the West Indian Islands, territory belonging to two different nations; islands not under our flag; but their need was great and this people saw the need and met it as speedily as possible. Congress at once appropriated large sums of money. They were augumented by private gifts. And, gentleman, I found as usual, the army and navy—the instruments through which the work could be done. The minute I wanted men who could drop the work they were engaged upon, assured that neither pestilence nor volcano would make them swerve from their duty; men of incorruptible integrity, I turned to the army and navy, and we sent them to the stricken island. I am sure you all feel proud that ships bearing the American flag should be among the first. I think the very first, to take relief to those overtaken by so appalling a disaster.

It is a fine thing to have at the opening of this century such omens of righteous acting, of international brotherhood; omens of the future, where a sense of duty to the neighborhood will extend beyond national lines, as the actions which culminated in the starting today of the free republic of Cuba on the paths of independence and in being first to reach out a helping hand to those overwhelmed by disaster without regard to the flag to which they paid allegiance.

C. F. S.

Washington, May 22.—Over at the White House the other day I went into what is known as the "war room." It is a little long room, perhaps not more than ten feet wide and twenty or twenty-four feet long. On one of the walls hangs a map of the world, and on this map is indicated by little flags the position of every soldier and every battleship of the United States. At a glance, therefore, one may see where the army and the navy of this country are, and by looking at the key, which describes and explains the flags, he can locate each individual ship and every troop or company of all the regiments. Even the location of vessels which may be out on the high seas is indicated, for the speed with which they travel being known, it is easy to follow them across the map with the flags. And it gives one another illustration of the extent to which the United States is becoming a world power to see how widely these flags are scattered.

It was in this room that President McKinley spent a good deal of his time during the Spanish war, for he was more nearly the commander-in-chief of the army and navy in fact, as well as in title, than any other President has ever been. From the time when he cabled to Dewey at Hong Kong to proceed to Manila and find and destroy the Spanish fleet, until the signing of protocol stopped the march of the army in Porto Rico, every important order was issued by the President direct.

It is too soon, of course, to even predict with any assurance of fulfillment the success with which the New Commissioner of Pensions will administer that great office. It is a matter of much satisfaction to all Kansans, however, to note the highly favorable impression Mr. Ware has made upon all those who have met him here for the first time, and to listen to the favorable and flattering comments that are made about the manner in which he is taking hold of his new work. As a matter of fact it is nearly as necessary that the Commissioner of Pensions should be a good lawyer as it is that the Attorney General should have that qualification, for in the last analysis the determination of a pension claim is either a question of law or of evidence. Mr. Ware has been weighing evidence and studying law all his life, and his preparation for the work he has now undertaken has therefore been along exactly the right lines. His subordinates in the Pension office, particularly the men holding the positions of greatest responsibility, do not hesitate to express their gratification over the ready comprehension with which their new chief seizes upon the salient features of the cases presented to him and comprehends at a glance the material points involved. Those who are closest to Mr. Ware know that he accepted the appointment most reluctantly, and that it was only when the President pressed its acceptance upon him as a patriotic duty that he consented to undertake the work. Now that he is here, however, it is obvious, that he takes a general interest in it and is determined to devote his whole time, attention and ability to the administration of the office. To some of the Kansas members who called on him this morning, he casually observed that aside from nine hours which he was spending every day in his office, he had thus far devoted five hours every evening in his room at the hotel to work which he found awaiting him.

Mr. Ware has studiously refrained from announcing even to his most intimate friends what his "policy" would be. One of the first things he has done, however, has been to organize a number of new special examiner districts, in order that the men now doing that work would have less territory to cover, and could therefore make more prompt returns. No one thing that he could have done would have shown more clearly his intention to reduce the delay in reaching a judgment upon a pension claim, and it may be fairly assumed, therefore, that the cardinal doctrine of his policy, if he ever admits having one, will be to see to it that every claim presented is either allowed or rejected in the shortest possible time. If he does nothing more in the way of reform than to reduce what has heretofore been to thousands of claimants so long a period of weary waiting and uncertainty, he will have earned the unmeasured gratitude of his old companions in arms.

As a further evidence that Mr. Ware recognizes the injustice that may often be done by deferring action on a pension claim, and of his determination to remedy this evil so far as it is in his power to do it, a remark that he made this morning to one of the representatives from Kansas may be quoted. The representative had complained that a case which he was interested in had been in the hands of a special examiner for three years, and no report had yet been made upon it.

"Go back to your office," said Mr. Ware, "and write me a letter stating the facts and asking me why in the world this case hasn't been acted on." He left the representative to infer what he would do when he got that letter, but the chances are that there is a surprise in store for some special examiner.

As far as we have got now it looks as if the new commissioner is all right.

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The House of Representatives today did its part toward enacting into law the stern resolve which arose in the hearts of all the people on the day when the news came that President McKinley had been assassinated, by passing a bill which forever excludes from our shores "all anarchists, or persons who believe in or advocate the overthrow by force or violence of all government or of all forms of law, or the assassination of public officials." There seems to be no way under the constitution by which we can exclude persons of this character who are already here, but before this session of Congress adjourns a law will be passed providing for the protection of the lives of our presidents and other high government officials, which will certainly go far to prevent a recurrence of the Buffalo tragedy. So far as it is possible to do so without violating the letter or the spirit of our institutions, the Republican party will write upon the statute books the law the people have decreed.

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Along one side of the room is a row of telegraph instruments. Two of them are connected with the main Atlantic cables and the others connect with the Western Union and Postal telegraph wires. Operators are on duty at these instruments continuously, so that the White House is in direct connection every hour of the day and night with all parts of the world that are reached by cable or telegraph. It is by this means that the President when away from Washington is able to keep in constant touch with the government machinery, and as a matter of fact, wherever he may be, there is rarely an hour of the day in which some message is not sent to him or received from him. The President of the United States is never able to get very far away from his job.

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Readers of the REGISTER may remember the reports that were current some months ago to the effect that soldiers discharged from the volunteer regiments in the Philippines were detained there upon one pretext or another until their money was all gone, and they were practically forced to re-enlist in the army. Soon after coming to Washington last fall I took up this matter with the War Department, and at my request the Secretary of War addressed an inquiry to the army headquarters at Manila for a report upon the facts. This report was received a few days ago, and is as follows:

Respectfully returned to the Adjutant General of the Division, with the information that the subject matter of this communication was brought up at the time the volunteer regiments were being returned to the U. S. A petition was presented to the Adjutant General of the Division March 21, 1901, by a number of men recently discharged from the Regular Army, complaining that transportation to the U. S. was not being furnished them, and that they could obtain no satisfactory replies to inquiries as to when it would be furnished. The then Chief Quartermaster of the Division, to whom the paper was referred, returned it with the following remarks:

"Discharged men are being furnished transportation as rapidly as there is available room, those discharged from the regular regiments being given the preference. The number that can be assigned to each vessel cannot be determined until it is known in each case how many men there are in the volunteer regiments assigned to that transport.

"The instructions received from the War Department were to the effect that the volunteer regiments must be returned to the U. S. so as to arrive before June 30, 1901, on or before which date, they were, under the law, entitled to be mustered out.

"In addition to the owned transports, a number of vessels were chartered, but, owing to the accidents to boats and the quarantining of one of the vessels on account of smallpox, there were not sufficient accomodations for both the volunteers and the discharged men of the Regular Army. The movement of the former was successfully accomplished in accordance with instructions, but some of the latter were delayed. They were, however, accomodated with quarters and rations, so that, except the annoyance incident to the delay, there was no suffering."

C. F. S.

HOAR AND THE ARMY.

The Chicago Inter Ocean has this to say of Senator Hoar and his recent attack on the army.

"The American people have long ceased to exact from Senator Hoar either accuracy or consistency when the facts happen to run counter to his personal theories and tastes. The vanity of such an expectation and the peculiar obliquity of Mr. Hoar's mental processes under such conditions were clearly shown in his speech on Thursday.

"He began by denying that we are at war in the Philippines. 'We are only doing,' he truthfully said, 'what we have done at home when the forces of the United States have been called out to suppress riot.' Yet almost in the next breath he asserted that our troubles there arose because we chose war instead of peace—chose force instead of conciliation.'

"Every schoolboy knows that we did our very best to conciliate the Filipinos. Every schoolboy knows that we did not attack the Filipinos—that they attacked us with avowed purpose of exterminating not only our troops but also every white man, woman and child in Manila. These are the undisputed facts of record, but Mr. Hoar willfully ignores them.

"Mr. Hoar praises our army in the Philippines in the highest terms. 'I believe,' he says, 'the army to be made up of as brave and humane men ever lived.' Yet in the very next breath he accuses General Funston and other members of that army of every species of infamy, and charges the whole army with the most shameful cowardice.

"These very soldiers, he says, in effect, whose bravery and humanity he has just been praising lack the courage to tell the truth about the misconduct of their comrades. 'I cannot help believing,' he says, 'that not a twentieth part has been told.' And why? 'These brave officers,' he says, flinch before what they deem the certain ruin'—not of their country's interests, but—'of their prospects in life.'

"Even Senator Hoar, with all his philosophic ingenuity, shrinks from the task of explaining how the same men can at the same time be humane and cruel, brave and cowardly, truthful and liars. 'I do not undertake,' he says, with an air of seraphic charity, 'to judge in this matter. The American people can do it better.'

"The American people decline to consider the false dilemma raised by Mr. Hoar's superheated conscience and born of his sentimental delusions and willful ignorance of facts. They know their soldiers, and they also know Mr. Hoar."

A WRETCHED TRAVESTY ON LOVE

The Kansas City Star

The murder yesterday of Gertrude Rawlings by Frank Robinson, his deadly assault on his rival, Albert Ferguson, and his attempt to kill himself, is only one of a series of tragedies incited by similar causes in Kansas City. It would seem that a sort of a carnival of homicidal jealousy and passion were sweeping over the city. Crimes of this nature follow each other in such rapid succession as to cause amazement and alarm.

It would be to profane the finest of words to attribute these ebullitions of fury to love. It is not the office of love to slay and destroy. There is no similitude between love and the unholy passion which blights the object of its baleful ardor. The man who kills his sweetheart out of jealousy would be incapable of proving faithful to her under any circumstances. It is the sort of passion which burns itself out in a swift flame which kills. It were really better to perish at the hands of such a suitor than to live to suffer from his brutal neglect.

What capability for loving can find lodgment in the heart of a Bud Taylor or a Frank Robinson? What does the preference of such perverted creatures mean but madness? They are equal to none of the sacrifices which love exacts, and they know nothing about the steadfast devotions which love inspires. Being the prey of their own lawless emotions, they can offer no pledge of protection or of constancy to others.

It is distinctly important to society and to public security that this plain and proper distinction between love and unhallowed passion should be perpetually emphasized. It should be clearly recognized by the law, which, in its essence, acknowledges no false sentiment in the administration of justice. Murder for love—so called—cannot, it is feared, be wholly prevented, but it can be discouraged by adequate and suitable punishment, and it can be lessened by the refusal of society to accept as an apology for love such a hideous imitation and travesty as homicidal rage and jealousy.

SUBMISSION TO THE MAJORITY.

Kansas City Star.

Loynaz Castillo, a Cuban Congressman, left the House last Thursday, with the announcement that he intended to resign because the House had tabled his motion to hang a certain battle flag in the chamber. Possibly the senor has thought better of his threat, but his action illustrates the greatest danger that confronts a people unused to self-government—the unwillingness to submit to majority rule.

A young Bulgarian who was in the United States during the canvass of 1896 wrote to a Sofia newspaper that the most impressive thing to him in America was the fact that neither Mr. Bryan nor any of his supporters seemed to think of an armed insurrection against the inauguration of President McKinley. In the United States submission to the rule of the majority has become a part of the national life. The civil war was fought on that issue. The real question at stake, as Lincoln pointed out, was whether a free popular government was possible. The principle of majority rule then established at an enormous cost of blood and treasure, has never since been seriously questioned in this country.

But if the greatest rebellion in history arose over this question among a people schooled for centuries in self-government, there should be little wonder that the emotional Latin race, without Anglo-Saxon conservatism or training, finds it a constant source of trouble. Rebellion follows rebellion in South America because the defeated party refuses to submit. Cuba will be in danger of the same disorder unless the wisest counsel prevail. Such affairs as the threatened resignation of Senor Castillo have a disquieting significance as indicating the drift of national opinion.

The Cuban leaders have a large task before them in educating the people in this fundamental duty of citizenship.

HOW CAN THEY DO IT?

Kansas City Journal: The Democratic State convention nominated half of the Democratic State ticket, leaving the other half to be nominated by the Populist State convention. It would seem that the statesmen composing the Democratic State convention has not read the new election law very closely. Under that law, the Populist State convention can have no authority to nominate any portion of a Democratic ticket. If the Populist convention nominates a candidate, that candidate must go on the ballot under a Populist heading, or he must stay off. The section governing this reads as follows:

"Party nominations of candidates for public office can be made only by a delegate or mass convention, primary election or caucus of qualified voters belonging to one political party having a State or National organization." This provision is amplified in other sections of the law. A candidate cannot get on a party ticket unless he has been nominated by a convention or caucus of the voters of that party. He cannot be nominated by a convention or caucus of another party, and he cannot be nominated by a committee or other power claiming delegated authority. The legislature of Kansas set out to destroy the corrupt, dishonest, ought-to-be-criminal practice known as fusion, and the Democratic and Populist traders and traffickers will find that it succeeded.

KANSAS CLIPS AND COMMENTS.

A blooded dog belonging to an Independence man died. Later he found half a biscuit in his yard and unless it proves that his daughter oaked the biscuit he will have it analyzed for poison.

An Alabama paper, printing the story of the Kansas farmer who has a steam plow that operates eight 16-inch plows, printed it "61-inch." And the bloomin' Southerners believed it; they'd believe any Kansas tale.

A man with iron nerve offered a Topeka man $8,000 for 160 acres of shale land near Salina. Think of it! Shale, bearing gold at the rate of $1 a ton! The Topeka man indignantly refused, although he got the land for a few dollars per acre.

A horse-trader called at the office of the Eldorado Republican and the devil informed him that, as the boss was a fishing crank, they wanted "a setter horse, one that would skirmish around in the water, locate fish and then set, like a setter dog." The trader left in disgust.

Wichita Eagle: The assurance of the authorities at St. Pierre to the people the day before the explosion that Pelee was entirely harmless has but one counterpart in the history of Kansas. Along in the fall of 1890, when the Republican politicians assured one another that the Alliance movement would cut a figure only in a township here and there.