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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1899.

TWENTY PAGES.

The Disbarment of Wellcome.

PERSONS who will read carefully the unanimous opinion of the supreme court disbaring John B. Wellcome from the practice of his profession of lawyer, will note two things: the court is convinced beyond the remotest doubt, first, that Mr. Wellcome did bribe members of the Sixth legislative assembly to vote for W. A. Clark for United States senator; second that there is not a scintilla of evidence that there was any conspiracy on the part of Mr. Clark's opponents to defeat that gentleman through the use of money or by any other corrupt or unlawful means whatsoever.

These two propositions are established facts. W. A. Clark did resort to wholesale bribery to secure a majority of the votes; and W. A. Clark's counter-charge that the \$30,000, now in the hands of the state treasurer, was money contributed by unscrupulous conspirators in a corrupt and malicious attempt to bring him into such disgrace and detestation that no honest man would dare vote for him, falls miserably to the ground.

The decision is exhaustive and thorough. It considers the points at issue with candor and care. In its entirety it will be interesting reading both to lawyers and laymen. But all else that it says is subordinate to these two great central facts—that W. A. Clark is an unmitigated corruptionist, and that his defense is an unmitigated lie.

That Wellcome was Clark's agent and acting for Clark "is admitted," says the court. That it was Clark's money he was using in the purchase of votes for Clark, no one, not even Clark's most active and aggressive friends, will deny. Any other supposition would be the height and depth of absurdity.

Among other things, the supreme court officially indorses the reputation of Fred Whiteside and State Senator Clark of Virginia City for truth and veracity—that reputation which Mr. Wellcome's attorneys strove so hotly and bitterly to break down. Three times, says the supreme court, were these witnesses under the fire of cross-examination—before the legislative committee, before the now disgraced and discredited Lewis and Clarke county grand jury, and before the supreme court itself. "A careful and painstaking examination of their accounts given at the hearing," says the supreme court, "in so far as they relate to the same matters, also fails to reveal any substantial contradiction or omission. These statements are not unreasonable in the light of this whole record, and it is highly improbable that such a story could be deliberately concocted and repeated so many times without being discredited in some substantial particular. After seeing and hearing the witnesses ourselves, and noting the silence of the accused when he ought to speak, and his failure to produce other witnesses to rebut material statements made by Clark and Whiteside, which it was in his power to do, we can reach no other reasonable conclusion than that this charge is true."

The way of the transgressor is hard. Mr. Wellcome's previous good standing at the bar and in business and social circles could not save him from the consequences of his crime. Disgraced as he is, he is not so branded as the man for whom he sacrificed himself; for W. A. Clark will go down to his-

tory as the arch-boodler of the century.

Let the state of Montana thank God this Sabbath morning that it has a supreme court which all W. A. Clark's millions could not swerve from the path of rectitude and duty.

England Depends on Kitchener.

THE capture of Ladysmith, of Kimberley, of Fretoria itself, is necessary to save Great Britain from degradation to the rank of a third-rate power. That is the mission unto which Kitchener is called. Robert, brave old man that he is, is a mere figurehead. His name is supposed to give prestige. Kitchener, Roberts' chief of staff, is the man to whom all England looks to do the work. Can he do it? Kitchener has been a British soldier twenty-eight years; and a successful one. He obtained his commission in the British army in 1871. For twelve years he was engaged in civil employment, principally surveying in Palestine and Cyprus. He was made a captain in 1883 and served under Sir Evelyn Wood in Egypt when the latter was reorganizing the native army. When the troubles in the Sudan made necessary the dispatch of trustworthy British officers to Dongola in advance of Wolseley's Nile expedition, Kitchener was always the member of the intelligence staff who was selected for important work. He commanded a brigade of the Egyptian army in the operations near Suakim in December, 1888, and the following year was in the engagements at Gemalzah and Toski.

At the beginning of the last Sudan campaign, Kitchener was made commander-in-chief of the Egyptian army. His series of brilliant victories, particularly his crushing defeat of the dervishes at Omdurman, is recent history. For his services he was raised to the peerage and voted a gift of \$100,000. He paid a month's visit to England, and there were many brilliant celebrations in his honor. He returned to Egypt to act as military governor of the Sudan. When the war with the Boers broke out he is said to have urgently requested the war office to allow him to take part in it, but was not successful. His request was refused. Now the war office is glad enough to avail itself of his services. But Kitchener may find fighting the Boers essentially different from fighting the dervishes.

Some Gold Standard Admissions.

WHILE the Boston Herald is, in general, a very able newspaper, its knowledge of monetary principles is by no means on a par with its understanding of other public questions. A paper that will seriously argue that the "quantity" of money makes no difference and that its "quality" is the all-essential thing, certainly has not advanced very far into the intricacies of that branch of political economy.

Neither a newspaper nor an individual that really believes the quantity of money to be immaterial, is properly equipped for dealing with the great monetary problem, which for the quarter of a century has agitated both Europe and America. The Standard has more than once intimated a doubt of the absolute good faith of those who question the quantitative theory, the fact that every business man in his own private affairs are directly involved. What is more, those who argue the question from something of an academic standpoint, also admit it either directly or by necessary implication, when dealing with matters that are collateral and incidental to the main issue.

In a recent comment upon the currency bill passed by the house the Herald itself virtually admits the quantitative theory, at the same time giving some evidence of a more accurate knowledge of monetary science than its denial of that theory would indicate. It perceives defects in the bill which it hopes the senate will remedy, but fears that it will not through the ignorance of sound financial principles on the part of many senators. The Herald says: "They will not recognize that the provisions of the bill for the increase of bank circulation unlocks the door for a large inflation of paper money, and that every dollar thus added to the volume of domestic money will inevitably diminish to an equal extent the amount of gold money in the country."

That is eminently sound, and it rests upon the fundamental principle that no country can permanently hold any more than its distributive share of the world's total stock of money. This principle is recognized by all economists of repute. But why is it, and how does the principle work? Just in this way: If a country gets more than its proportion of money, prices in that country will rise above the international level, and money will flow out to make purchases in countries where prices are lower, and this will continue until the equilibrium is restored. This holds good universally between countries closely connected commercially, and having the same classes of goods for sale. At the same time the country with less than its share of money, while increasing its sales, will diminish its purchases in countries having an excess, and this also operates to restore the proportions.

These are perfect exemplifications of the quantitative theory, which is simply that prices in any country are controlled by the quantity of money in such country in proportion to the things to be exchanged for money.

Now, to go a step further, the Herald sees danger in the fact that the enlarged issues of bank notes will drive gold out of the country. But why dan-

ger, if the quantitative theory is unassailable? What harm will the loss of a portion of our gold do if "quality" is the only thing to be considered? Will the export of a part of our gold injuriously affect the "quality" of the remainder? Certainly not. Then what harm will come from the loss of gold? Simply this primarily, the supply of money will be diminished and prices will break. The bank notes not being legal tender, depend for their value, as currency, entirely upon the gold which stands for their redemption, and when gold in large quantities is exported, many of the notes must likewise be withdrawn from circulation, or there will be danger of their depreciation.

The silver men have repeatedly pointed out that bank notes will drive gold out of the country just the same as greenbacks or Sherman notes will, with this to the disadvantage of the bank notes, that when the gold is gone we shall have no legal tender money at all. Simply bank promises which any man can refuse, and which may utterly fail in seasons of emergency. Very much more could be said along this line, but our only purpose now is to suggest how completely a great gold standard newspaper can admit some of the most vital of the silver men's contentions when the question of free silver coinage is not directly before the country, and how absolutely it surrenders its own objection to the quantitative principle.

Morbid Ambition.

IT is a curious sense of propriety which prompts Mr. Kohlisaat and the members of the committee on resolutions of the national republican convention at St. Louis, to work up a controversy as to who originated the financial plank in the republican platform.

A great many people knew it to be a fraud then, and everybody does now. The published correspondence shows conclusively that the republican leaders intended it as essentially a gold plank, and that the only differences among them related to the particular phraseology, which, while meaning gold, pure and simple, would best deceive those republicans who still had, or thought they had silver leanings. Mr. Kohlisaat declares in substance that the resolution meant gold and nothing else and that the reference to an international agreement was merely put there as a bait for the silver men in the republican party to nibble at.

It didn't fool Teller or Dubois or Hartman or any of the others who bolted the convention. They knew that it was nothing but fly paper, and that there would never be a sincere effort to obtain such an agreement as the one named.

Perhaps the most significant feature of the controversy is the fact that the resolution emanated directly from McKinley's close friends, Hanna, Kohlisaat, Colonel Herrick and others. The popular belief had been that it came from those who had been regarded as extreme gold men. But it seems that McKinley's immediate circle of boosters saw the necessity of making their man solid with the money power, which they did by proposing a gold resolution at the very threshold of the proceedings.

Mr. Kohlisaat must have a morbid ambition for notoriety, when he can take pleasure in attempting to prove that he was the prime actor in so unprincipled a fraud. But that is not so strange as is the willingness manifested to have it appear that President McKinley was also a party to it, for it cannot be possible that he didn't know what his friends were doing.

Subsequent events prove that he did. The Wolcott commission was recognized as a by-play at the time, and now every semblance of his part of favoring bimetalism has been dropped. The political history of the country presents no parallel to this act, in point of party treachery and betrayal of public confidence. It is literally amazing that any one should desire to prove that he was the central figure in a scheme which could not, by any possibility, have originated in the brain of a politically honest man.

WELLCOME, AS A LAWYER, AN OUTCAST

(Continued from Page One.)

volving so much detail and so many incidents, and repeat it three different times without betraying their falsehood. Again, it does not appear that either of these men, or both together, could in any way command large sums of money. No attempt was made to show this. The record tends to prove that Whiteside is a man of small means. Yet the money—\$20,000, all in one-thousand dollar bills, except \$4,000 of the Meyers package—is in the hands of the state treasurer as a result of the exposure—a significant fact to be explained or accounted for on no other theory of the proof in this record than that it came from the hands of the accused. And this brings us to the consideration of another feature of the defense.

The Democratic Factions.

Counsel for the accused at the opening of their proof proposed to show that for many years there had been a schism in the democratic party in this state; that one division was favorable to W. A. Clark of Butte, and the other followed the leadership of one Marcus Daly, and was known as the "Daly gang." That the part of the latter has always been to rule the party at all hazards; that one of its purposes was to defeat W. A. Clark by fair or foul means in his aspirations to go to the senate of the United States; that the witnesses Whiteside and Clark belong to his "gang"; that the exposure was the result of a criminal conspiracy among members of this "gang," including Clark, Whiteside and Myers, falsely to charge W. A. Clark of Butte and his friends with bribery and thus defeat him; and that the money turned over by Whiteside was really furnished by that faction to give the color of truth to the charge made against Wellcome. Evidence was in-

troduced by the accused in support of this defense. Entering this all together and giving it the utmost weight to which it is entitled, it is hardly sufficient to require consideration, as it establishes nothing beyond the fact that there is no evidence for some years a strong political hostility between W. A. Clark of Butte and Daly as rivals for leadership in the democratic party. There is no fact proved from which any inference is permissible upon any legal principle, that the opposition from the Daly faction of the party was other than such as was perfectly lawful. It was certainly no crime for any number of men to combine together to elect W. A. Clark of Butte by lawful means to the United States senate. It was certainly equally lawful for any number of men to join forces to defeat him if they used lawful means only. It does not appear in this record that the opponents of Clark had any unlawful means in their opposition to him; nor is there a scintilla of proof tending to show that any of them furnished the money in evidence in this case.

It appears from the proof that the accused has heretofore borne an excellent reputation for honesty and integrity in his profession. This fact we have considered in his "case." That an attorney heretofore above reproach, should not be degraded from his profession upon the testimony of men in the position of Whiteside, Clark and Myers, Courts always act cautiously upon such evidence. Many of them condemn such action in the severest terms. We ourselves agree that the course pursued by these persons is to be censured. Far better and more righteous would it have been for Clark and Myers, who are members of the bar of this court, to have gone to Wellcome, their brother lawyer, and, if possible, persuaded him to desist from the abhorrent practice he was engaged in (far more in accord with those high sentiments of professional honor and integrity which honorable lawyers should always possess, to have recalled him to a sense of duty to the law, and not to have deceived him, and encouraged him to commit crime. But, however reprehensible it may be as violative of the principles of propriety and morality, the fact that a trusted and numerous body of attorneys apparently entering into the criminal plan in order to detect and expose it, does not, of itself, render his evidence unworthy of belief. The adjudicated cases are numerous where a decoy apparently entering into the criminal plan in order to detect and expose it, does not, of itself, render his evidence unworthy of belief. The adjudicated cases are numerous where a decoy apparently entering into the criminal plan in order to detect and expose it, does not, of itself, render his evidence unworthy of belief.

Wellcome's Previous Good Character.

Finally, counsel insist that men who deliberately deceive another in order to win his confidence with a purpose to betray him, are not worthy of belief, and that an attorney heretofore above reproach, should not be degraded from his profession upon the testimony of men in the position of Whiteside, Clark and Myers. Courts always act cautiously upon such evidence. Many of them condemn such action in the severest terms. We ourselves agree that the course pursued by these persons is to be censured. Far better and more righteous would it have been for Clark and Myers, who are members of the bar of this court, to have gone to Wellcome, their brother lawyer, and, if possible, persuaded him to desist from the abhorrent practice he was engaged in (far more in accord with those high sentiments of professional honor and integrity which honorable lawyers should always possess, to have recalled him to a sense of duty to the law, and not to have deceived him, and encouraged him to commit crime. But, however reprehensible it may be as violative of the principles of propriety and morality, the fact that a trusted and numerous body of attorneys apparently entering into the criminal plan in order to detect and expose it, does not, of itself, render his evidence unworthy of belief. The adjudicated cases are numerous where a decoy apparently entering into the criminal plan in order to detect and expose it, does not, of itself, render his evidence unworthy of belief.

The fact that the act here charged as a ground for this proceeding had no connection with the professional conduct of the accused makes no difference as to the treatment to be accorded it by this court. Under our statutes, as heretofore construed in this case (54 Pac. 45), offenses within the line of professional duties and those without are treated alike. The same footing so far as concerns the quantum of proof necessary to establish them. Nor does it matter that no injured suitor is demanding redress. With the motive prompting this action on the part of the accuser we have nothing to do further than as they reflect upon the credibility of his story. The ultimate end sought by him may be very far from an honest purpose, to purge the profession of an unworthy member. Still, when a charge of this kind is presented, and the proof is made showing that a member of the profession has been guilty of acts tending to subvert the very foundations of society, the court must act, painful to us as the performance of the duty in this case is, he the ultimate consequences what they may.

It is therefore ordered that John B. Wellcome be removed from his office of attorney and counselor of this court, and that his name be stricken from the roll.

WORDS OF APPROVAL.

How the News of the Decision Was Received in Great Falls.

Great Falls, Dec. 23.—The news of the unanimous decision of the supreme court at Helena in the case of the disbarment of John B. Wellcome for bribery in the interests of W. A. Clark was received at 1 o'clock this afternoon and was almost the sole subject of conversation among citizens of this city from that hour until the day. On every hand was to be heard words of approval of the court's action and people who heretofore have refrained from expressing themselves in any manner on the question of the disbarment, were now being heard to-day had done more to bring bribery and official corruption into disrepute in Montana than anything which has occurred since the days of official purification by the citizens of Virginia City in 1863.

So far as heard the members of the bar were unanimous in their approval. "There never has been any doubt in my mind," said a prominent attorney of the city to-day, "as to the final outcome of the case, nor do I believe has there been a doubt in the minds of a single citizen of this city. The fact that there is no one who does not know that as constituted our supreme court is absolutely incorruptible, and it is only by relying on the purchase of the roll of even a layman could expect Wellcome to be given a certificate of character in the face of the damaging evidence of bribery and evidence to which there was presented no defense. Montana may well be proud of her supreme court, both in the point of ability and absolute unswerving integrity." The words of this gentleman seem to express the sentiments of every one.

If there are any in the city who do not approve of the court's findings they are not here to be heard, and on every hand the disbarment is looked upon as the clearing of the atmosphere of bribery and corruption which hangs over the state like a pall, and marks the beginning of the end of the time when honesty is marked as an evidence of inferiority and men holding official positions will perform themselves as a matter of course and be bought in the legislative halls like sheep in the shambles.

A Glad Surprise.

Special Correspondence of the Standard. Bozeman, Dec. 23.—The bulletin of the Standard stating that John B. Wellcome had been disbarred by the supreme court was a glad surprise to most Bozeman people, as the decision was not expected until after the holidays. As one man remarked, "It is the best Christmas gift we have received for many a long year." W. A. Clark's supporters in the city are not rejoicing very loudly.

The Big White Store Closed All Day Christmas

Connell's Stock-Taking Price-Reduction Sale

Before many days elapse we will be ready to take an inventory and desire to reduce our several stocks as much as possible, as it is far easier to count money than to inventory merchandise. Connell's, whose reliability and superiority are table talk, comes forward Tuesday morning at store-opening offering

Bargains in Every Department of the Big White Store

That stand pre-eminent for their beauty, elegance and usefulness. This is an annual event with us, not a catch-penny sale—it's a genuine unloading of thousands of dollars' worth of the most desirable goods at prices that mean a great saving to you.

Read Every Word—See Every Bargain

Table with 3 columns of Bargains: In Comfortables, In Men's Outing Flannel Night Robes, In Boys' Knee Pant Suits; In Blankets, slightly soiled, but hardly noticeable; In odd lots Men's Underwear, Almost all sizes; In two of a kind, nearly all sizes; In Fancy Laundered Shirts; In Ladies' Jackets and Capes; In Ladies' and Men's Shoes.

ONE-HALF PRICE Christmas Goods ONE-HALF PRICE

All that's left of our Christmas Toys, Books, Games, Silver Novelties, Manicure Goods and Toilet Sets will be placed on sale Tuesday morning at one-half price. Everything is marked in plain figures and you pay just one-half of the price that each article is ticketed. Plenty of suitable New Year's Gifts among this lot—

Table listing various goods and their prices: Toys, regular price 25c, 12 1/2c; Toys, regular price 4c, 20c; Toys, regular price 75c, 35c; Games, regular price 40c, 20c; Games, regular price 75c, 35c; Games, regular price \$1.00, 50c; Books, regular price 25c, 12 1/2c; Books, regular price 5c, 2 1/2c; Dress Goods, REMNANTS DRESS GOODS, TUESDAY, One-Half Price; Silks, Remnants of Silks, TUESDAY, One-Half Price; Toilet Sets, worth \$4.00, \$2.00; Toilet Sets, worth \$5.00, \$2.50; Toilet Sets, worth \$6.00, \$3.00; Toilet Sets, worth \$10.00, \$5.00; Silver Novelties, worth \$1.00, 50c; Silver Novelties, worth \$1.50, 75c; Silver Novelties, worth \$2.00, \$1.00; Silver Novelties, worth \$2.50, \$1.25.

DON'T MAKE THE MISTAKE TO PASS THE WONDERFUL BARGAINS

Offered at the Big White Store on Tuesday

All the Departments Bid for Your Favor With Unparalleled Low Prices

M. J. CONNELL CO.

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