

Commercial Advertiser

WALTER G. SMITH - EDITOR. WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 20

It begins to look as if plundered China had as heavy a claim for indemnity as the allies can bring against her.

The Mardi Gras ball was a brilliant social success and the aid it has given to a deserving charity makes it a function which ought to be annually repeated.

If there is anything more nauseating than to see a woman poking about dens of vice to satisfy a curiosity which she tries to disguise as a "reform investigation," it ought to be taken up with a tonga and buried in the nearest ash heap.

Cremation is gaining prestige in Japan and it is sure to have a good effect upon the health rate. At present the country is a vast graveyard, roadsides, back yards, front lawns and even parks being utilized for the burial of the dead. These bodies contaminate the water supply and are one cause of widespread epidemics. The safety of the population suggests and demands the future remedy of fire.

Some of the Oriental papers say that Li Hung Chang is dead and others that he is hale and hearty and in excellent spirits. The fact that the European and American papers had not heard the news of his death up to February 9th indicate that the reports of the old Earl's demise were at least premature. Li is, if living, 82 years old according to the Chinese way of counting, which is to credit a man's birth with a year's existence. At such an age death is an ever-present menace and if Li has not yet passed away his time cannot be long in coming.

We have had many letters protesting against the attempt, in the form of a moral crusade, to scatter dens of vice and their inhabitants all over Honolulu. These communications we should publish, however reluctant we might be to give them space in the columns of a family newspaper, were it likely that anything of the kind would be done. But the scolding of the sensation-mongers at a system which banishes professional vice to the distant suburbs and keeps it away from the eyes and ears of children and decent men and women, will amount to nothing more than so much wasted noise.

THE TIME FOR CAUTION.

The trial of the extended suffrage in Hawaii begins today with the assembling of a Legislature in which the native electors have a large majority. The Washington authorities, in their desire to know just how far Hawaiians can be trusted to carry on legislative affairs, have arranged for full reports of the session. The President and Congress expect conservatism and it will be well for the native islanders if they are not disappointed in the results.

Since the election, we are bound to say, the program of the Home Rule party has been steadily modified. The natives started out with anti-American plans, among other ones to pass some incendiary resolutions in regard to the Queen and the Monarchy. They were also going to reject Gov. Dole's appointees and some of them talked about freeing the lepers. All these wild schemes have been dropped and we hope that other schemes, somewhat of the same quality, will go by the board before the session has ended.

The Legislature can make, or mar the future of the native race. It can alarm and disgust the friends of Hawaii in Congress and earn the active hostility of the ruling white element here, or it can, on the other hand, cement the bonds which attach Hawaiians to American citizenship. If taxes are raised for the sake of paying unadjudicated claims; if there is a carnival of spoils and extravagance; if the scandals of the Monarchy are revived, then the Hawaiians will have to pay the penalty. The business and property interests of this country will not submit to be robbed and they will not have to yield an inch of precedence at Washington to Aguinaldo Wilcox. Nor will they, as a lying Honolulu paper says, attempt any form of bribery at Washington to secure their rights. When the great business interests knock at the doors of Congress they do not have to fee the men at the gate nor buy the men within.

If the Legislature will make up its mind to reduce taxation instead of to increase it, Washington will hear the news with as genuine pleasure as Hawaii. Having begun with expansion the Federal Government wants the policy to prove its own worth and standing. Much that affects the future of America's other new possessions as well as Hawaii will depend upon the legislative showing here.

MISSIONARY "LOOTING."

Some of our readers may have noted, in the latest budget of foreign dispatches, an item about the arrest of Rev. Dr. Ament and Rev. Mr. Tewksbury, members of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, on a charge of looting, and of their subsequent release. Few particulars were given but the matter is so interesting to a large number of people in Hawaii, some of whom know the missionaries named, that we are glad of an opportunity, which Mrs. S. N. Castle has afforded us, to reprint this explanation from the columns of the Missionary Herald:

Newspaper reports have called attention to what is termed looting on the part of the missionaries now in northern China, and to the reproach thus cast on the missionary character and cause. In particular, Dr. Ament and Mr. Tewksbury of our mission are freely charged with terrorizing Chinese villages near Peking, and with the unauthorized exaction of indemnity from their inhabitants, for the benefit of the Chinese Christians who are under their care. To those who are acquainted with these gentlemen these reports are discounted at once, in view of their known character and good sense. For the benefit of others, a brief statement of the situation is made. Several hundreds of the native Christians and their families took refuge with the missionaries in Peking during the siege last summer, driven from their villages, with the loss of their homes and all their property, and in many cases, with their

friends slain before their eyes by the fury of the Boxers. When the siege was over, all these homeless, hungry, helpless people were left utterly dependent on the missionaries for protection, for food, for clothing, and for all things. The military authorities assigned to those in charge despoiled and confiscated compounds in the city, with directions to utilize whatever was found in them that could be turned to account, just as was done by the Legations and all others during the siege. This was not looting, but acting according to the plain proprieties and necessities of the case. After a time more permanent means of support had to be found. And this led to visits by the above-named gentlemen to the villages around Peking and Tungcho, whence the refugees had been driven out, to seek reparation for their dependent charges from those at whose hands they had suffered such overwhelming loss. Not a cash was asked or taken for their own needs or for the losses of other missionaries. But in accordance with a well-known custom in China, universally acknowledged by all Chinese, the leading men of these villages were asked to make good the injury and loss which their fellow-villagers had suffered through their neglect. The justice of the case and the personal influence of the missionary made the labor easy; the obligation has been readily acknowledged and paid; in some instances reparation has been offered before any demand was made. Dr. Ament, reporting one of these visits made without the aid of soldiers, says: "The visit was a complete success. Every one of our dispossessed church-members in that region has been reinstated, and a money compensation made for his losses. This has been done by appealing to the sense of justice among the villagers where our people lived, and where they were respected by all decent people. The villagers were extremely grateful that I brought my foreign soldiers, and were glad to settle on the terms proposed. After our conditions were known, many villagers came of their own accord and brought their money with them." Unquestionably these gentlemen have done all this with the knowledge and approval of the United States Legation and of their associates, including such men as Dr. Arthur H. Smith, author of "Chinese Characteristics," and Dr. D. Z. Sheffield, president of North China College. With these facts in hand the case would seem made to be plain, and all occasion for anxiety about the propriety of these things is removed.

The German soldiers found the missionaries collecting or transporting the indemnity and arrested them on a charge of robbery; but immediately after a hearing at Peking both gentlemen were released and permitted to return to their respective charges.

PREPAREDNESS FOR WAR.

Three years ago the present Secretary of the Navy sent Congress a building program of one ship, declaring that the expansion of the American war marine had reached the borders of the limit set in previous years and that no need appeared for much further increase. About the same time, owing to the near completion of the Endicott system of forts, an attempt was made to raise the army to a force of 50,000 men, but Congress merely conceded two or three skeleton regiments of artillery, making the effective force about 27,500 men. In less than six months from that time of optimism the United States went to war with Spain, ships were improvised for the defense of every American seaport, the facilities of builders were taxed for the construction of battleships and cruisers and a volunteer army of 262,000 men was put in the field. Today the United States is building up a great navy with almost feverish haste and a bill has been passed providing for a maximum strength of the army twice as great as that for which military men vainly appealed in the latter part of 1897.

This has been a very startling transformation indeed but it teaches a useful lesson by which, in its vigorous policy of military and naval increase, the United States shows that it has discreetly profited. Wars in these days come like bolts from the blue, and when a nation is unprepared for them its potential strength does not count against a prepared and dangerous enemy. The events which led inexorably to the Spanish war almost caught the United States napping. Had Spain been a great power this country might have had to bear many humiliations. The people realize this now and there is but the faintest dissent from the army and navy program which three years ago, such a thing would have evoked all the calamity-howlers and convinced thousands of timid souls that the end of American liberty was at hand.

As to liberty, its beneficiaries may be very glad indeed before many years have passed that America had the forethought to arm itself as it is doing now. If there is any virtue in signs there are troublesome days ahead. Europe, seeing the passage of its trade to America, is beginning to gravely discuss the proposals of Count Gorchowski for a commercial league against the young republic—and commercial leagues, formed for such a purpose, may easily become armed coalitions. "Our next war," said Admiral Dewey at Manila, "will be with Germany," and there are signs and portents, occurring all the time, which indicate that such a collision may not be long delayed. It is wise, therefore, to make ready. The more ships, the more forts, the more regular troops, the sounder the insurance against a threatened calamity.

THE ANDREWS CASE.

Some time ago the morning Humphreys contained a series of charges against Lorrin A. Andrews, an article criticizing his appointment as Deputy United States Marshal for the Island of Hawaii. United States Marshal Ray read the charges and observing that the morning Humphreys said it was prepared to prove their truth, at once suspended Mr. Andrews and wrote to the organ of that profound exemplar of justice, the First Circuit Judge, asking for the evidence in point. That evidence was not forthcoming. In its place came a letter entirely dodging the issue, evading every point raised against Mr. Andrews and insinuating that it was the United States Marshal's business to collect proof without invading the privacy of the morning Humphreys.

In commenting upon the suspension of Mr. Andrews' appointment, as it did at the time, the Advertiser predicted this result. The ignorance, the malice and the total irresponsibility of the accuser were perhaps better known to us than to Mr. Ray, who is a recent comer here, but it must be plain enough to him now that Mr. Andrews has been grossly maligned to satisfy the spite of the dwindling faction which opposes him.

Unless the Humphreys' cabal can supply the United States Marshal with conclusive affidavits—and affidavits

withal that are signed by others than themselves—we hope that he will commission Mr. Andrews without delay.

OF CURRENT INTEREST.

"Dixie's" Widespread Popularity.

"It is a curious thing that no matter how far from the confines of the ex-Confederate States one may travel, whenever the strains of 'Dixie' are heard he is sure to hear some one applaud it," remarked a prominent Pacific Coast man the other day. "I have heard the old Southern war tune cheered in every town on the Pacific Coast and in the rough mining camps of Alaska and British America with as much enthusiasm as would have been manifested in Charleston or Savannah. A year or so ago I was in the principal hotel of Yokohama and was talking to a veteran of the cause for John Bull, when a band struck up the familiar air dear to the followers of Lee and Jackson. Heard in that far-off spot, it electrified us, but the old Colonel, regardless of his surroundings, couldn't keep down his emotion, and gave vent to several piercing roars of joy. I suppose most of the people in our vicinity thought him crazy, but just at that moment he was utterly indifferent to Oriental criticism."

One of Cowherd's Tricks.

One of the clerks at the Ebbitt House, Washington, was married the other day. Instead of taking a vacation, he went immediately to work. Incoming guests were greeted by a huge pasteboard sign standing directly in front of the desk. On the sign were two hearts pierced with an arrow and the inscription: "This is My Wedding Day, I Am So Happy." Of course every guest laughed, and the clerk looked as though he had been guilty of sheep stealing. He did not know the sign was there and thought there was something in his appearance that told every one he had just been married. Guests coming from all parts of the United States looked at the sign and then congratulated him. He is wondering yet how they knew. The New York World, in telling the story, says that the people at the hotel there that Representative Cowherd of Missouri is responsible for the sign.

Cities and Street Railways.

The street-railway franchise question is occupying the attention of two Ohio cities. The Cleveland city railway has made a proposal of the following: The payment of \$200,000 in cash to the city, the granting of transfers on all tickets, the sale of six tickets for a quarter, and the payment to the city of a graduated percentage of the entire gross receipts, beginning with 2 per cent and increasing to 5 per cent for the last ten years of the twenty-five-year franchise. This proposal the city has rejected, meaning to get better terms. Columbus, also about to make terms with the street railway company, finds that the proposal that Cleveland rejects is better than any the Columbus railway company has made that city.

The Senator Preferred the Kitchen.

Representative Jones of Virginia tells this story on his father: Directly after the war Jones senior was sent to the Senate. An old slave who had belonged to him was also elected to the Senate. The two drew adjoining seats. Senator Jones was very courteous, and in addressing his former slave always called him Senator. The old negro stood it for some time and finally said: "Massa William, I don't like dis Senator business. Kain't I come down to yo' house and visit that cook of yorn? I suttinly would like permission to visit yo' kitchen." The request was granted, and while Senator Jones was in his library the other Senator was down in the kitchen visiting the cook.

Glad to Have Him Settle It.

Glasgow undergraduates are said to have given Lord Rosebery an uncertain moment recently. He was making an address before them when he said, "Within six weeks we shall have closed the nineteenth century," a surprising blaze of "hear-hear-hears" ran through the hall and ended in a roar of cheering. Lord Rosebery kept his countenance, as he always does, and said: "Well, gentlemen, I hope you will be better pleased with the twentieth." But that was not the point, nor were they geying the new lord rector. The university had been perturbed unduly with the question when a century does end, and so the orthodox claimed a Daniel.

Unjust to the Young Soldiers.

Soldiers of the recent war with Spain are not recognized as veterans by the Massachusetts State Soldiers' Home at Chelsea. The case that has brought this decision is that of a private now dying from consumption. He has been rejected by the service hospitals, as he has been mustered out, so it looks as if he would have to die in an almshouse. Governor Crane is ready to make some recommendations for the correction of this state of affairs. The trustees say this decision is to be enforced by all similar institutions throughout the country.

Struck With Iron Bar.

Ah Chew, a Chinese, who conducts a store at the corner of King and Nuuanu streets, was arrested about 10 o'clock last night and charged with assault and battery. David Kanawahi was standing in front of the store and claims that the Chinese ordered him to move on and in the altercation which ensued Kanawahi was struck on the right side of the head with an iron bar in the hands of Ah Chew. A slight scalp wound was inflicted and was dressed by Dr. Anderson.

John Bull's Advantage.

It is related that Tommy Atkins had taken a Boer prisoner, and the two getting friendly, talked about the prospects of the war. "You may as well give it up; you will never win," said the Boer. "Cos why?" asked Tommy. "Because we've the Lord on our side," said the Boer. "Go on," said Tommy; "we've three lords on our side, and one of 'em's made a bloomin' hass of 'imself!'"

A Mayor's Whipping Post.

According to reports, Mayor Schaad of Allentown, Pa., has established a whipping-post on his own account. It is said that he has adopted corporal punishment for youthful offenders brought before him on minor charges. He regards them as too young to go to jail and a fine would only be a punishment of the parents who would have to pay it, so he has the youngsters whipped.

A Horse Banquet.

Horses were the sole guests at a recent dinner given by a company of English men and women who went from London into the country for the sole purpose of entertaining their four-footed dependents. The menu included chopped apples and carrots and slices of white bread, mixed with a few handfuls of sugar.

"Strike For Your Altars and Your Fires."

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