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Under the head of "The Involence of Letters."

THE INSOLVENCE OF LETTERS.

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Canada's Friendly Act.

and the progress of the war and speculation as to its outcome have been subjects of much international discussion.

The newspapers are the exponent of popular thought. While it is true that they are the means of creating, as well as directing, public sentiment, to a very great extent, their primary office is to supply news, and to give preference and prominence to that which will be of greatest interest to their readers.

Much of the foreign news now appearing in American papers relates directly or indirectly to our war with Spain, and it is impossible that the interest created through the first international war in many years should subside to the ante-bellum status when the war is ended. The adjustment of affairs after peace is declared will almost inevitably involve some considerations with nations other than Spain.

As a result of the conflict the United States will have possessions in both the Atlantic and Pacific, and whether these interests be as large as some hope, or as limited as others advise, they are sure to be great enough to bring the United States into much closer relations with the other powers of the world than heretofore.

Our nation will discard the attitude of a great, receptive merchant, satisfied with what must come to him because of his superiority and abundance of his goods. Hereafter our foreign commercial agencies will be vastly more extensive and aggressive, especially in the Pacific, and we shall keep a better posted upon the world at large than we have been in the past.

"THE INSOLVENCE OF LETTERS." Current literature, for July, lays aside its usual dignity and constructs a straw man, whom it deluged with a club stuffed with nonsense. This "straw man" style of literary criticism is easy and harmless. No person is disposed seriously to object to such belaboring, for it is a painless pastime, but one cannot resist the temptation to call attention to the straw man.

Under the head of "The Involence of Letters," the author gives expression to a notion wherein he saw "those good folk who can read and write, by a strictly party vote and the possession of an enormous majority, pass a resolution that a knowledge of literature constitutes culture."

The fact is, that no nation ever grew great on mere cold brains. Something more than cerebral convolutions must go to make a progressive nation. The affections of a people, their ideals, their loves, their passions, their fears, their hopes, their ambitions, religion, home life, and the sense on the part of the individual of the priceless value of his own manhood and independence—these make a people great.

Germany has a happy and healthful home life, but she lacks virility in her churches, and the old Puritan sense of the worth of individual freedom in her institutions. Education is not dynamic; it is only regulative. The ultimate stronghold of national power is in the affections of a people, and not in their intellect. It happens to be a fact that those provinces of Russia where schools are most plentiful are worse cursed with nihilism. To the fool, this proves that education is a bad thing; to the careful observer it only indicates that culture alone is helpless against the forces that tear down society.

America is less educated than Germany, but more civilized. Germany thinks the world scientifically, but America loves the world waeily. In this world, when the power of unassisted brain runs against the strength of well grounded affection, America always gives way, which truth may seem strange with great force to Germany, should certain remote possibilities become actual.

A WINNING TICKET. The Republicans of Jackson county have chosen the way for a complete victory at the fall election. The convention at Fairmount park yesterday was a harmonious, deliberate and successful body.

The platform adopted is a strong, unqualified Republican declaration. It reiterates the honored principles of the party, and it is a promise to the people of Jackson county that if the campaign against mismanagement, abuse and corruption is fought with success, the office, under Republican rule, will be economically and wisely administered.

The complete refusal of the convention to combine with the Populists was a gratifying evidence of the staunch Republicanism of the delegates, and showed how desirable was a proposition to deal with more political jobs, whose contamination would vastly outweigh their numerical advantage at the polls.

The ticket nominated yesterday is well calculated to bring out the full strength of the party; and, furthermore, it is a ticket that will command itself to many Democrats who are desirous to see a radical change in the administration of certain county offices. A party that can put such a ticket in the field, under conditions now existing in Jackson county, does not need to care when other parties hold their conventions or whom they nominate.

The new county committee, with Mr. Charles C. Vest as chairman, will have a good opportunity to make a record. It is always possible to make a fine campaign upon Republican principles, but there is a great advantage in having a strong ticket and a weak opposition. It is impossible for the Democratic party to put up a ticket strong enough to overcome the popular protest against recent and current abuses in county offices.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS. One of the results of the war with Spain is a large increase in the space given to foreign affairs in the newspapers of the United States. The destruction of Spain's Asiatic fleet at Manila attracted immediate attention to the Philippines and led to a general discussion of European interests in or bordering on Asiatic waters. Everyone became familiar with geographical relations and political conditions that hitherto had attracted but little attention to this country. The capture of the Lashon islands and the annexation of the Hawaiian group have increased the concern of all Americans in the status and possibilities of Asia and Oceania as now related to the United States. The laying of a Pacific cable, which has been regarded for many years as an ultimate necessity, is soon to be a fact as a result of new requirements and expediences.

In the Atlantic, the fate of Cuba, Porto Rico, the Canaries, and even the Mediterranean islands of Spain, is still in the balance, and the progress of the war and speculation as to its outcome have been subjects of much international discussion.

The Jackson county Republicans did a good day's work at Fairmount yesterday. The people will give their indorsement to this statement later on, at the polls.

The prospects of Republican victory in Jackson county this year are very bright. And this without regard to how good or bad a ticket the Democrats may put up.

Our soldiers at Manila are to be supplied with Kansas City meat. From the way they have been fighting it was supposed Dewey and his men had been eating Kansas City beefsteaks all along.

woman of gloomy disposition, but circumstances are such as to compel her to take a Populistic view of the future. Her throne is gone and her pension is not coming.

It can be said for General Toral that if he did not get satisfactory terms of surrender it was not because he didn't demand them. The celery compound people will waste no circulars on Toral. His nerve is in perfect working order.

The expected coming of Watson's fleet has started a panic in Spain that will speedily convert the people of that country into clamorers for peace. Notwithstanding their boastful talk, the dons prefer whole skins to national "honor."

The effect would have been more spectacular if General Shafter had sternly demanded immediate and unconditional surrender, but the government at Washington is not striving after spectacular effects. It wants substantial results, and wants them with as little sacrifice of life as possible.

NOTES AND NOTIONS.

The Outlook calls attention to the sufferings and services of the men in the engine rooms on our war vessels. While the sailors and marines incur great risks and occasional hardships, the stokers and engineers suffer indescribably most of the time while on duty in the tropics, besides taking their share in the more serious dangers from shells and sinking.

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Meantime on the Continent the tendency seems to be from Catholicism to Evangelicalism. The occasional declaration of independence of a French priest has been noted for forty years past. But now the deceptions seem to go by platoons. A number of Italian priests call upon some of their French brethren to unite with them in the formation of an "International Christian Society for the Conversion of Catholic Priests to the Gospel of Christ," and the preaching of M. Charbonnel in Belgium has won so many converts that the church authorities have appealed to the civil authorities to check him in some way.

The Salina Republican is kicking on the school history recently adopted by the Kansas board. It contains no mention of Dewey, Schley, Hobson, Sampson, Walcott and the rest of the boys.

One of the sorrowful circumstances in the annexation of Hawaii is the fact that it leaves us with two independent queens on the island—Queen Kapiolani and Queen Liliuokalani.

"John," said a Toledo wife to her husband, "I will quit smoking and save the war tax if you will do the same with beer."

"Woman," responded John with cold severity, "do you think it is the part of patriotism to abandon your country in its time of peril?"

Here is a story written to the Hiawatha Dispatch by the late Private George Stewart, of the Second battalion, Twenty-second Kansas, in order for drawing his sword on Captain Stevenson, of Company H.

Letter from Kansas boy with the rough riders: "We hear that the war troops are to be taken to Porto Rico while we at Santiago are waiting for our orders. He voted for James Madison for president. When Lincoln was born he was 13 years old. When Peter Cooper's first locomotive shrieked out its brass-tongued herald of the iron age he was a man of 33. He was a voter when the war of 1812 had run its course. He is in the flesh when the sunny territory of Kansas belonged to both Spain and France. When Thomas Jefferson bought Louisiana from the first Napoleon he was 12 years of age, and when the light of the great commander went out he was at Waterloo. He was a stalwart man of 24."

There have been other very aged people in Kansas. Hon. J. B. Roberts, of Topeka, recently buried his mother, who had reached the age of 102. Hon. J. H. Reeder, of Hays City, last fall performed the same sad service for his grandmother, who had reached the age of 131. In 1870 George W. Wallace, of the Shawnee county, celebrated his 100th birthday by visiting the Kansas legislature, where he was seated in the speaker's chair and made a guest of honor. Stories have been told of old negroes and old Indians who passed the age of Mr. Wallace, but they have never been authenticated, and in the absence of other reliable records he must be regarded as the oldest man who ever lived in Kansas.

Parties in Germany. From the Chicago Post. What would we in the United States think if after passing through an excellent school of education, and then our representatives in congress split up into fourteen different parties, with none of them, or even two of them, constituting a majority? Undoubtedly our first conclusion would be that government by party was a failure. We are not so far from the mark in our own country, where the final results of which are now known, the various parties are represented in the new reichstag as follows:

Center party ..... 19  
Conservative ..... 19  
Social Democrats ..... 26  
The soldiers ..... 4  
Radicals ..... 4  
Free Conservatives ..... 2  
Moderate Liberals ..... 2  
Total ..... 87

It will be perceived that the most numerous party in the reichstag lacks ninety-six of a majority. It is three parties and a political affiliation can figure up a majority, the three coming nearest to it being the Center party, Social Democrats and Radicals. These are the parties which made the most decided gains at the late elections, having increased their strength by twenty-three seats, chiefly at the expense of the Conservatives and Free Conservatives.

The loss of the latter must have caused considerable chagrin to the Emperor William, for they represent the sturdy agricultural classes, upon which he has been wont to rely. The Center party is the clerical, or Roman Catholic party, and has developed great strength in the cities, where the Social Democrats and Radicals also have made great gains.

If the industrial population gathered in the cities had the representation it is entitled to the strength of the Social Democrats would be increased to such an extent as to largely increase as to make them the dominant parties in the reichstag. Berlin, with a population of 2,000,000, has only six members.

Unhappily for Germany, the heterogeneous composition of the reichstag does not affect the government of the empire. The will of the emperor needs no assistance from a party majority, and only asks the reichstag to vote funds for him to run the government.

Canada's Friendly Act.

From the Pittsburgh Dispatch. The troops at Dodsenville, Ala., plainly heard the firing at Atlanta, Ga., 230 miles away. Professor Tyndall once assembled a number of instances where the sound of 32-pound siege guns was heard from ninety to 110 miles. A 6-pound cannon has been heard at a distance of 150 miles in all directions 350 miles.

Many instances of long-distance hearing were reported during our civil war. The troops at Dodsenville, Ala., plainly heard the firing at Atlanta, Ga., 230 miles away. Professor Tyndall once assembled a number of instances where the sound of 32-pound siege guns was heard from ninety to 110 miles. A 6-pound cannon has been heard at a distance of 150 miles in all directions 350 miles.

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sound does not carry equal distances at all times. He found that traveling through a medium of uniform density, whether air, brick walls, or other substances, sound would carry a great distance; traveling through a media of different densities—for instance, cool air, then heated air, and so on—sound would not carry far; that sound passing through air of a certain density when it struck air of a different density was made to rebound as it would from a solid wall or other obstruction. It followed from this reasoning that at night sound would travel further than in daytime, because the air was then of a more uniform density; that on a cloudy or foggy day, the air being in similar condition to the air of night, it would travel further than on clear days when there were patches of sunlight and patches of cloud, the sound would not carry far; that where there was calm in one place and wind in another, sound would not carry as well through these conditions as through others.

Uncle John Overton, of St. Joseph, is revisiting his grand father in Troy, Kas. On October 5 he will celebrate his 101st birthday anniversary. He looks to be no more than 70, though he has children extending to that age. In 1852 he enlisted in the original regulars of the Illinois regiment, formed to fight in the Mexican war. He enlisted in the Mexican war and served until the Mexican surrender. In 1862, at the age of 68, he enlisted in the regulars by inducing a military officer to record him as 41, and at the end he came out a second lieutenant. He cast his first presidential vote for Andrew Jackson in 1824. One eye has lost its sight, but he is able to read without the aid of glasses. He walks erect and firmly, and bears none of the evidence of extreme old age. He has never used whisky or tobacco, but will admit the use of an occasional glass of beer and wine. He does not attend the church, but he has an idea that the man who behaves himself will get to glory all right. Among the anecdotes of his youth he relates that he once saw a man who had been sent to spread black oil on the surface of that stream to absorb the oil which constantly floated. The blankets were then wrung out and the product was called "black oil." It was used as a lotion, and Uncle John declares that for sprains, bruises, cuts, etc., nothing has ever been found to equal it.

With one exception Uncle John Overton is the oldest man who ever trod the soil of Kansas, at least of whom authentic records may be had. The exception is George W. Wallace, who celebrated his 106th birthday anniversary here he died. He was born in Schenectady, N. Y., in 1791. His ancestors were French, and hailed from the purple hills of Normandy. When he was a boy he was sent to a boarding school in Troy, N. Y., where he remained until he was 16. He was a railroad for many years. In 1827 he commenced by driving a team on the grade work of the Saratoga & Schenectady railroad, of which his father was the superintendent. By 1843 he was a locomotive engineer. After that he became connected with numerous roads in the capacity of engineer, superintendent of conductors, master mechanic or roadmaster. During the civil war he was assistant engine dispatcher under General McCullum in the far South, and at its close he settled in St. Louis, where he became a master mechanic of the old Kansas Pacific railroad, and his was a familiar figure about the yards in Kansas City. He held similar positions with a number of other Western roads, his management being with the St. Louis, Bridge and Terminal Company as master mechanic in 1888. At the date of his 106th birthday he was a resident of St. Paul, in Neosho county, where he had his principal lands. He was a member of the Grand Old Law party.

Mr. Walshe lived under every president of the United States ever had with the one exception of McKinley. He was 5 years old when George Washington wrote his farewell letter. The history of to-day is almost entirely unknown to him. He voted for James Madison for president. When Lincoln was born he was 13 years old. When Peter Cooper's first locomotive shrieked out its brass-tongued herald of the iron age he was a man of 33. He was a voter when the war of 1812 had run its course. He is in the flesh when the sunny territory of Kansas belonged to both Spain and France. When Thomas Jefferson bought Louisiana from the first Napoleon he was 12 years of age, and when the light of the great commander went out he was at Waterloo. He was a stalwart man of 24.

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Spain, just as they did to certain United States officials when they got to Canada. And the Canadian authorities will treat them with the same silent contempt that Sigbee and Lee did.

Insofar as actual injury is concerned it may be frankly admitted that these Spaniards have inflicted none upon the United States. This fact is not due, however, to any lack of mischievous intention on their part, but rather to circumstances which they had no control. Their expulsion was ordered on principle, with sole reference to what they were trying to do and not for what they did. Nevertheless, the United States is under obligation to Canada and Great Britain for the friendly attitude assumed by them and will not be lacking in gratitude because of the laughter indulged at the expense of the comical Spanish spies.

Help for Steelville.

From the St. Louis Republic. The cloudburst which almost wiped the town of Steelville from the map of Crawford county has left sad survivors nearly bankrupt. Besides the frightful loss of its loved ones, the thrifty little community has suffered the loss of \$100,000 of the work of years of public utility of the work of years of public utility.

The people of Missouri can do nothing to assuage the grief of the bereaved survivors beyond helping them to restore their dismantled homes and farms by pecuniary aid promptly and generously.

Governor Stephens has issued a proclamation calling upon the people of the state to come to the rescue of the city-stricken brethren. It affords to the city-stricken and good people of the state generally an opportunity to do good that should be seized directly.

Offerings should be sent to Mayor John T. Haley, or to the committee composed of Frank W. Franks, Harry Clymer and Joel T. Coffey at Steelville, Mo.

The Courage of Faith.

George H. Hepworth, in New York Herald. He is strong and of a good courage—Destruction, it is more surprising to the careful observer than the qualities of character which are developed by his conduct, which are developed by his conduct.

It seems as though our men were so ablaze with enthusiasm that a decade's growth takes place in a month.

Courage, that kind of courage which is so frequently seen in the face of death, is so frequently seen that it is becoming gloriously and almost awfully monotonous.

Each day's history is dotted with deeds of daring like stars in a constellation, and we are scarcely surprised to find without manifold injustice to others. When all are heroes even praise becomes dumb.

If we are entirely impartial, we must extend the limits of this criticism until it includes those whom we call our enemies also. Human nature on fire is the same all the world over. When Winwright received his bravery and offered deserved praise to one who, after leading a fierce battle here, was forced to surrender, he tacitly admitted that, under circumstances which naturally provoke it, courage is the common property of mankind.

No matter in what clime a man may be, or whether the cause he defends is by us considered worthy or not, if he is moved by a sufficiently strong impulse he is quickly changed from a pigmy into a giant, and thereafter he does a giant's work.

We have tens of thousands of giants of this kind in the field, in the camp, behind intrenchments, and for the purpose which I have in view at this moment I am proud of the fact that there are also giants in the ranks of our army who are facing death under a hostile flag.

I am proud because I believe that all human beings are capable of extraordinary development under fostering conditions; that there is a grandeur in our common stock which needs only an inciting cause to show itself.

Mankind does not appreciate itself. God made man noble, and nobility should run through every phase of life. We ought to bestow more thought on our high destiny, on the qualities which we are endowed for to show itself.

We are dormant, sluggish, indolent spiritually. Unusual conditions produce great men. There never was a time when the right men did not step to the front to meet the greatest emergency. The ability is always there, but it sleeps until it is roughly awakened by some terrible shock, and then the country is suddenly filled with heroes. That ability to overcome is in you as well as in the man behind earthworks.

You are larger than you think you are. There is nothing in your experience which cannot be met with a soldier's courage and used in the production of a fine character.

We live in the delusion that life is common and ordinary; that we lack the opportunity to make ourselves noble. The ability is in us, whether one man or one woman in a million who has not an environment to make a hero or a heroine within.

If your lot is cast in poverty, in drugery, in inharmonious, which hampers and discourages, amid confining domestic ties, these are your enemies, and you must either conquer or surrender. It will never do to find fault with Providence, for per se it has a purpose, and might the soldier find fault with his general because he is not where he thinks he ought to be. That soldier's work is work that ought to be done, that must be done, and that will be done, while other nations are winning victories the time will come when he also shall be called upon to show his mettle.

It is the foremost injunction of religion to do well what is disagreeable to bend to a noble purpose, to be brave in small things, to bear misfortune with a strong and sturdy soul, and instead of doing nothing because your life is not to your liking, doing everything with fidelity, calmness and faith.

Take your life just as it is and thereby make yourself better than you are. Creep closer to God with an assured faith that you and He can perform together the work that He has given you to do. It is worth the sacrifice he makes, and in that belief he sleeps amid dangers and bears the hardships of the campaign cheerfully.

We all need to profit more from the example of our heroes. It is the cause of character and of immortality. We can achieve a noble character, because the ability is in us, whether one man or one woman in a million who has not an environment to make a hero or a heroine within