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TWELVE PAGES

FRIDAY, JULY 7, 1899.

EQUALITY IS REASON, RIGHT AND JUSTICE.

All talk about "equality" is nonsense. Men are not equal. God did not create them equal.

The smaller the person, morally and mentally, the more emphatically and fiercely does he or she deny and repudiate equality and the greater the nonsense, in quality and quantity, he or she utters about it.

All men are created equal, says our Declaration of Independence, or words to that effect. How, in what? The context explains that, and it is further defined by the subject in connection with which the declaration is made.

Now note the proposition as originally made: It was in a declaration for a separate and independent government, which, as our Fathers said, "a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes that impel them to the separation."

Where is the error? Wisdom, justice and truth are all there, and never more fully and accurately combined and expressed. If we were forming a government now, how could and should we do it? By fraud? You would hardly admit that, or agree to it. By force? You don't want to fight.

There is the demonstration, and in it equality, liberty, competition, justice, truth and right preside, under God, morality and reason and logic. And mark how self-evident it all is, as our Fathers declared on the Fourth of July, so long ago;—unless indeed, we are scoundrels, self-confessed, and instead of fair competition in form of government, governors and laws, by the rule of reason, right and logic, or truth and common-sense, we prefer to rob (by force), or cheat and steal (by fraud and cunning).

Thus we discover that while we are not equal in the length, number, nor color of our hairs, we are necessarily equal as honest and reasonable beings in common rights, before and under the law, as men created by the same God, and before God (Who is "no respecter of persons"), enjoying the same privileges and opportunities so far as regulations can justly control them and subject to the same duties, obligations, burdens and responsibilities, according to our respective abilities.

And every self-respecting man is the prouder of this equality, differentiated only by his individuality and its capacities; nor would any honest man, if he could, take any unfair advantage of another, or deny him any civil, political, or legal equality in right or privilege: every man to stand or fall, rise or sink, under the same equal right and privilege for all, as inevitably limited or modified by circumstance or personal difference.

WE OWE CUBA FREE INDEPENDENCE.

Cuba is in a state of transition; but to what? The present system is a semi-civilized demi-Cuban rule, under the supreme control of the American Military Governor, Gen. Brooke, subject to the administration at Washington;—and the result is not a brilliant success in any direction, but creates a condition of uncertainty and apprehension that tends to dissatisfaction and disorder among all classes and parties, even in Habana and Santiago, where things appear to be more settled. It is a dangerous stage of development; and yet a decisive policy, in consonance with the character of our government (not this administration), and the pledges made by both Congress and the President before, during and since the war with Spain, would lead directly to peace, prosperity and happiness.

But we are told by this administration and its defenders that it is awaiting a policy from Congress; but that is sheer nonsense, or a criminal evasion; for not only by fundamental principles, institutions, constitutions and precedents is a policy plainly indicated toward Cuba, but it is pledged and guaranteed by special promises and acts that cannot be violated or ignored without bad faith and dishonor; and, in addition, the prevailing consensus of the Cubans themselves demand this policy: an aided, protected and encouraged self-government, which shall be recognized in full independence by the United States as soon as fully organized and in successful operation all over the island.

As it is, doubt and uneasiness are breeding all sorts of schemes and giving rise to all sorts of rumors. This administration is widely believed to be directly or indirectly fomenting dissensions, plotting delays and taking advantage of everything to postpone autonomy so as to force certain elements to look to American annexation as the only speedy issue from the present military subjection. Cuban and Spanish plots are said to abound and there is even a royal party in Habana endeavoring to organize the wealth, education, society, position and other elements of power and influence of Cuba in behalf of a King and nobility, with pomp, titles and gew-gaws.

Our duty is plain enough; but it is equally plain that it is not the intention of this Washington combination of politics and plutocracy to have this duty done, if it can be prevented, either to this country or to Cuba, by any system of procrastination and misrepresentation, or internal impatience, wrath and violence. Nobody can doubt that the intelligent and honest majority of Cuban people are decidedly in favor of freedom, independence and a separate Republic, nor that whatever favor we have or had with this element was secured by expressed or understood sympathy on our part with these patriotic aspirations. If our officials, or any portion of our people, are plotting or taking part against these high and manly aspirations, they are guilty of a treachery that disgraces our flag and Republic.

A VILE SPOUTCH.

We say to President McKinley that this indecent persecution of Admiral Schley by the Navy Department is the one vile splotch upon the brilliant scutcheon of his administration.

That it is "a vile splotch," there is no question; but it is only part of an administration that is one vile splotch, from its beginning, growing viler as it nears its end. But, to think that this judgment on the "indecent persecution of Admiral Schley" is from an organ of this administration, standing by it with zeal, in all but this, through thick and thin; and worse than duplicating this persecution of Schley by joining and defending the War Department in its persecution of Gen. Miles, the Chief of the Army, because he stood by the soldiers against the Department in the rotten beef scandal and outrage, and also joining and defending Alger, Eagan & Co. in their infamous vilification and bullying of all, official or unofficial, soldiers or citizens, who dared to tell the truth about this obscene imposition on the army or express their natural indignation and disgust at it.

No, no, no! the foul conspiracy against the heroic Schley is not "the

one vile splotch," but a characteristic and average sample of innumerable similar splotches that mark the hog and hyena united in this abominable and mis-begotten abortion that wounds and disgraces the Federal government,—and which exhibits its wondrous kindness and fellow-feeling for such ruffians as Eagan and such thieves as Carter, by force of the same natural law that constrains it to reveal a fierce and malignant antipathy to such Paladins as Admiral Schley.

And how monstrous it is, in a print capable of recognizing and justly labeling the enormity of the injustice to the hero of Santiago, to speak of the "brilliant scutcheon" of an administration "as foul as Vulcan's smithy," or the Augcan stables; and whose only brilliancy must be akin to that of rotten mackerel on a moonlight night.

There is no health in it. From head to foot; from center to circumference;—all is loathsome and cankerous filth, stench and venom. The malignant and malicious attempt to void dishonor on the man who placed the 3rd of July on the calendar of fame next to the 4th of July in glory, as it is in date, was but the festering puerulence of a mean and petty envy and jealousy of base and little souls stirred to fury by the acclaim of a whole people to a great and good man in the hour of victory that brings them peace, safety and honor.

The 3rd of July unites forever with the 4th of July to magnify the worth and merit of the victor of Santiago, while both days combine in eternal rebuke of the wretched double traitors to freedom and honor who were unable to put a grand occasion to a better use than in a display of a fiendish rancor as disreputable as it is immeasurably despicable.

THE FUTURE MERCIFULLY HIDDEN.

Judging the future of the American people by their past, we find no reason to doubt their firmness and fidelity or their success in the discharge of new duties. They will never fall back when the path or retreat is the way of dishonor.

That is from an Algerine, War Department, embalmed-beef, anti-Miles, pro-Eagan and commissary combine organ against the Cuban Army, its soldiers, dead, living, sick and wounded, its officers, surgeons, chaplains, nurses and correspondents, with their wives, mothers, sisters, daughters, sweethearts, kinsmen, friends and sympathizers; the trumpeter of every path of dishonor—leading criminal aggression to conquest and tyranny and massacre against human freedom and independence in the Philippines; sounding the bugle recalls from all the ways once proudly claimed, as the glory of our country; and guiding our blushing flag away from the honorable courses of a past whose sacred memories cover and shudder in the shadow of shame now swallowing them in a mocking derision of holy sentiments and high principles.

How dare this organ and pander to the apostate present thus refer to the glorious past and to a future that might have been equally blessed and grand? How can it have the audacity to prate of "new duties" that but cover perfidy to all our ancient obligations? Alas, fidelity is scoffed at as outworn superstitions; the watch-words of freedom are a hissing and a scorn; and we are betrayed into wasting our valor and blood in a misprised cause.

Let us credit Hanna with the decency of leaving the country till after the 4th of July.

Could President McKinley, or his cabinet, or any of his imperial gang, conscientiously and earnestly celebrate the 4th of July?

The summer so far in Virginia has been remarkably dry and cool,—notwithstanding which corn looks very well and will do well, if a drought does not ensue.

If the people do not take more care and interest in selecting their legislative representatives and insist upon and exercise their right and power to instruct these representatives, if elected, they need not wonder if the lobby, or some other power, displace them.

If we may judge from the strikes all over the land and other indications, American labor was never more dissatisfied than at this moment. Yet we are told that everybody is employed and that wages are going up in all industries; with general prosperity prevailing. Evidently there is a big lie out.

Could any true American take part in celebrating 4th of July with pride in Manila? No! If anyone understood it he could not suppress a blush of shame and humiliation. He could not do it without desiring to "haul down the stars and stripes" and deodorize and disinfect "the banner of freedom."

Hanna is ecstatically quoted by all his organs as saying that the Democratic party was never so much "at sea" as at present. The Republicans are "ashore" at Manila,—"stranded" at Habana,—and "reef-wrecked" all along the shore.

If Hanna means that the Democratic party is "at sea," in the sense of being without "cart or pilot," nothing is more false, as chart and pilot for 1900 are already fixed securely in the approval and confidence of 6,500,000 true Democrats to 125,000 goldite dissentients.

The Republican party is not agreed even on Hanna—much less on candidate and platform, or pilot and chart.

Gold only against gold and silver is monopoly against competition, a contracted currency against money for all, prosperity for a few against enough for all, and the constitution and the laws against "forcible annexation." "criminal aggression" and imperialism.

It is said that instead of only 8,000,000, the Philippines number at least 12,000,000. To exterminate them, even in the name of humanity, is a big contract for American liberty to undertake, 8,000 miles off, in Asia. Even if it were in support of freedom and independence, we might well decline to force them, at so much bloodshed on both sides, an unwilling beneficiaries of our humane tenderness and affection.

The Republican party and the money-power are both swindles, and that is what makes them so reciprocally friendly. If they would only fall out, honest men might regain their own; but are not a majority of the people honest? The result of the election of 1900 will not decide that question, unless election frauds, bribery and corruption, can be eliminated from the vote, the count and the return, which will require a miracle,—but with God all things are possible.

The most affecting incident resulting from the cruel injustice to Dreyfus was the manner in which he met his faithful and devoted wife at their first interview after his landing in France. He hardly recognized her, greeted her coldly, if not suspiciously, and did not even kiss the woman who had shared his persecution and probably suffered more than he. It showed, indeed, that he had escaped from the dominions of the Devil ("Devil's Island"), but had not yet recovered from the treatment devils had put upon him. Has hell fit tortures for miscreants so surpassing all human provision?

OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

The cost of waging an unrighteous war of conquest against the Filipinos has already reached more than one hundred and twenty millions of dollars. It will cost many times this amount to conquer the natives and establish the sovereignty of the United States in the archipelago, and it will require the presence of fifty thousand troops on the islands at all times to hold the inhabitants in subjection to a hated ruler. Benevolent assimilation is an expensive luxury.

If the gold trust can force the United States to base its enormous internal commerce—equal to that of one-third of the entire world—upon the supply of that metal alone, it will cause the value of gold to double in the next twenty years as it has done during the past twenty. This will double the wealth of the men who hold one hundred and fifty billions of bonds against the nations, states and people of the earth by giving to the principal and interest of their bonds a purchasing power of things in general double what it is at the present time.

MORALS AND POLITICS.

The man who boasts that he takes no interest in politics thereby admits that he is not a good citizen. It is the duty of every citizen to take an interest in politics, not as an office-seeker, but as an intelligent and conscientious student of issues which involve the policy and welfare of the country.

The man who has nothing to do with politics has no right to complain if the government is not wisely conducted. If there are faults of legislation and administration he is partly to blame for them.

In an admirable address at the University of Michigan a few days ago Professor Nicholas M. Butler said on the subject of "The Education of Public Opinion."

"There is no trench in which the individual citizen may hide, no bomb-proof to which the weapons of responsibility will not follow him. Are you politically alert? Are you politically honest? If not, you are a bad citizen, and a corrupter, however innocent, of public opinion. If so, the standard which you set is a high one, worthy of imitation by your neighbor. You are doing something to educate public opinion."

This is the true standard of citizenship—honesty of political convictions and courage in asserting that conviction.

When the average citizen fails to take an interest in politics the government will be in real danger.

A TRUST OF TRUSTS.

For years the monopolists have worked for a law authorizing private branch banks in connection with the national banking system. Such a law would permit the great national banks of the country to establish branches and so secure practically all the banking business of the country. It would result in one great bank with branches in every city and hamlet in the United States.

Then the Board of Directors of the banking monopoly would control every line of business, for by discriminations as to banking facilities, it would break every one whom it should mark for slaughter, just as the railroad managers through discriminatory rates build up the trusts and crush out competition. But a Congressional law authorizing private branch banks has not yet been secured, although millions of dollars have been expended for that purpose. The Republican party, however, is pledged to the passage of such a law. The exposure was made in the Congressional campaign of last autumn. The multi-millionaire trust owners are not waiting for a law by Congress but have started in under the laws of the State of New York. They have organized a trust company in each city as its branches. As these trust companies do a banking business, they can as readily "corner" the banking facilities of the country as though they were organized under a law of Congress and there is the decided advantage of being beyond the reach of a law of Congress, except in an indirect way, and the United States Supreme Court has great power to head off any effective action by Congress.

The Supreme Court has repealed the sections in the Inter-State Commerce law which were obnoxious to the monopolists, and it will be less potent to protect the State banks from Congressional action. The stockholders in this new Trust

Company include the chief stockholders in the Standard Oil Company, the sugar trust, the thread trust, the match trust, the tobacco trust, the Carnegie Steel Works, the Gould interests, Astor interests, Mutual Life Insurance Company, the Flower interests, Mark Hanna, and the leading Trust Company in each of the principal cities of the United States.

And what is equally important is the names of trust promoters and trust protectors. These important functions are combined in Mark Hanna, chairman of the Republican party, and United States Senator; Garret A. Hobart, President of the Senate and Vice-President of the United States; Thomas B. Reed, Speaker of the Lower House of Congress; John W. Griggs, Attorney General of the United States; Senator Smith, of New Jersey; Senator Allison, of Iowa; Senator Wolcott, of Colorado; Senator Clark, of Montana, with an income of about ten million dollars per year; ex-President of the United States Grover Cleveland; ex-Vice-President of the United States Levi P. Morton; ex-Secretary of the Treasury John G. Carlisle; Daniel Lamont, ex-Secretary of War; Wilson S. Bissell, ex-Postmaster General; State Senator Harry Garfield, protégé of Mark Hanna; ex-Congressman Burleigh, and others.

As to the amount of wealth personally owned and controlled by the present stockholders in this to-be-trust of trusts it is over a billion dollars and it may be twice that amount. The consolidation of trusts is in a way to progress much faster than anyone would have suggested a week ago.

Warm Words of Commendation from a well-known Methodist Minister.

"I HAVE KNOWN DR. FIREY ABOUT NINE YEARS while living in Roanoke City, HE HAVING PRACTICED IN MY FAMILY DURING THAT TIME WITH SKILL AND SUCCESS. Though a young man then HE ENJOYED THE REPUTATION OF A SKILLFUL PAINTSTAKING AND COMPETENT PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON in the general practice of his profession. SINCE I CAME TO NORFOLK DR. FIREY HAS TREATED ME AS A SPECIALIST FOR CATARRH of the Nose, Throat and Bronchial tubes with marked improvement and by continuing his treatment I hope to be permanently cured. As a gentleman as well as a physician, I REGARD DR. FIREY IN EVERY WAY WORTHY OF THE CONFIDENCE AND PATRONAGE OF THE PEOPLE OF NORFOLK and I take great pleasure in recommending him to the public generally. Respectfully, REV. A. H. WAY, No. 3 Byrd Place, Norfolk.

SINCE WRITING THE ABOVE MR. WAY HAS DISCONTINUED TREATMENT, SAYING THAT HE NO LONGER FELT THE NEED OF IT.

Advertisement for Dr. Firey, M.D., listing his offices and specialties for various ailments like Catarrh and Bronchitis.

Advertisement for Green Ginger, 20c Per Pound, listing various spices and products.

Advertisement for Spices of All Kinds, listing products like Cloves, Allspice, Mixed Spices, etc.

Advertisement for Burrow, Martin & Co., 296 MAIN STREET, Patent Medicines at Cost.

Advertisement for THE HENRY WALKER CO., SAW MILL, And Railroad Supplies, Hardware and Ship Chandlery.

Advertisement for W. H. TAYLOR & CO., 224 Water Street, RAILROAD, STEAMBOAT AND MILL SUPPLIES.

Advertisement for Norfolk Iron Works, GEO. W. DUVAL & CO., listing various machinery and services.

Advertisement for Monticello Model Laundry, listing services and location.

Advertisement for Attention, listing Men's and Women's Linen, Duck and Outing Suits, etc.

Advertisement for Ice Cream and Cream, THE MOTTOWEE, listing various flavors and prices.

Advertisement for THE VIRGINIA, 272 Main Street, listing French Vienna and Home Made Bread.

Advertisement for PEANUT GROWERS, listing products and prices.

Advertisement for Pocahontas Steam Coal, listing products and quality.

Advertisement for Dry Pine and Oak Wood, listing products and quality.

Advertisement for ANTHRACITE COAL, listing products and quality.

Advertisement for The Nottingham & Vicin Co, listing products and quality.

Advertisement for COAL, WHOLESALE & RETAIL, listing products and quality.

Advertisement for STEAM AND DOMESTIC USES, listing products and quality.

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Advertisement for Jumbo Raleighs, listing products and quality.

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Advertisement for Mrs. P. Ries, listing products and quality.

Advertisement for Attention, listing Men's and Women's Linen, Duck and Outing Suits, etc.

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