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EIGHT PAGES. WEDNESDAY, JULY 18, 1900. THREE WARS WITH ONE UNDERLYING CAUSE.

The world is getting a pretty large dose of what Hon. Theodore Roosevelt calls the strenuous life. Indeed, the supply of that commodity is at present somewhat larger than is either desirable or convenient. According to Teddy it is so. With great reluctance the observer will be compelled to conclude that strenuousness has its drawbacks, at least as at present exemplified in China, the Philippines, the Transvaal, Ashanti and in other remote quarters. And not the least impressive part of this whole business is the fact that the so-called civilized nations have gone out of their way to provoke and to promote the strenuousness which is presently victimizing them. Not one of them has a case that would not be kicked out of a common law or equity court with a warning to counsel to be more careful in future. The quality and quantity of strenuousness that England has aroused in South Africa has amazed the world and has put the British Empire in mourning. And this has come to pass because the hardy Boers stood in the way of the mining schemes of speculators and of England's dream of Empire in South Africa. It is a war upon liberty pure and simple; war upon the right of a nation to exist and upon the right of a people to govern themselves. In the Philippines our case stands much the same, except that the independence of the Filipinos, while practically achieved, had never been formally acknowledged; we took over the islands under the empty husk of a sovereignty Spain was not able to exercise outside of Manila and a few garrisoned towns; we took up the task of subduing the Filipinos and it is still with us. It is a war upon the right of a people to choose their own form of government—a war of conquest merely. In China all the nations of the West, aided by Japan, are locked in a death grapple with the yellow hordes of Mongolia. Why? Because foreign representatives were butchered at Peking? Not at all. That was but a single unspokenly horrible incident in the struggle. The real underlying cause of the war is the attempt, long persisted in, of Europe to dominate China. The Chinese have not been permitted to govern themselves in peace or to live their lives free from annoying and domineering interference at the hands of nations with selfish purposes to serve. There is the apparently anomalous and remarkable spectacle of "civilized" nations engaged in waging three wars upon peoples less highly civilized, and in each instance the purpose is to deny to the latter the rights the "civilized" nations demand for themselves, the right to manage their own affairs. When it is recalled that this nation had its beginning in the triumphant vindication of that right, that for a century and a quarter it has maintained that right for itself and for other nations in this hemisphere, but that it is now engaged in warring upon that right elsewhere, the lamentable change in our governmental policy is apparent. The United States has become a leader in a world wide scheme of imperialism, having for its object the extinguishment of nations not professing European civilization, and this it has done through the repudiation of its very foundation principle.

The death of Colonel Liscum and the disaster to the Ninth Infantry at Tien Tsin is a most exasperating reminder that they were ordered there without authority and with no possible opportunity to serve any good purpose.

THE CRY FOR REVENGE. The situation in the far East does not improve. The consensus of the dispatches up to yesterday goes to confirm the massacre of the foreigners in Peking, including the diplomatic representatives, while the fighting at Tien Tsin every day serves to make more clear China's ability to offer a stubborn and protracted resistance. This in turn has led to a decided change of temper on the part of the allied nations. There is noticeably much less talk of dealing leniently with China than was heard a week ago. The cry in London, Paris, Berlin, Rome and St. Petersburg is vengeance and dismemberment, if London is to be believed. The cost of taking revenge is expected to be so great as to necessitate reimbursement by the seizure of territory. That is the diplomatic way of putting it. The real situation is that the Powers have gradually worked up to a declaration of their naked purpose to make an end of China, always provided the process does not necessitate cutting one another's throats over the spoils.

So far as the United States is concerned, this new determination will not increase its prestige. Mr. Hay has assumed to extend the Monroe doctrine to China, and has been snubbed for his pains. Now, he is endeavoring to determine whether he has a casus belli against China with a view to being in at the death and division of the carcass. The new chapter is about to open, and perhaps the last so far as China is concerned. Blood for blood will be its motif. Civilization, always more barbarous toward the barbarian than is barbarism, will, in his own name, proceed to convert northern China into a shambles. There is to be a competition in scientific butchery, with the fragments of an empire for the rewards, with provinces for prizes. It will not bring back to life the murdered whites; it will not wipe out the horror of that final scene, too hideous even to conjecture, if the reports are credible; it will only appeal to and satisfy that savage thirst for revenge that civilization has hardly weakened, and that blazes out as fiercely in the Englishman, the Frenchman, the German, the American, as in the Chinaman, the Tagalog, or the red Indian.

THE ONLY CHOICE LEFT FOR EUROPE.

Europe has an alternative—to rot out of China altogether or to prosecute the war to a bloody and successful issue, and that as speedily as possible. And when that has been accomplished either China will have to be dismembered or a complainant ruler will have to be set over it—a mere agent of the European coalition, who will have, in any case, the power to create infinite mischief among the parties to the coalition. In pursuance of its selfish policy, therefore, Europe can only, with safety, push on to a conquest of China, and the bloodier the conquest the better for that selfish policy. The reason of this is plain—if Europe comes to terms with the Peking government without first making a show of force that will overawe the Chinese masses the moral effect of the Boer victories will remain to foster revolution. Nor is that all—the lesson that Chinese troops properly drilled and equipped will face the best troops of the world has not been lost upon the Chinese or upon their rulers. With any government in control at Peking that has either patriotism or ambition the drilling and equipping of troops will hereafter go on, and then will come the reckoning, and China will be mistress of herself. From the point of view of greed and grab—the only point of view of Europe in this matter—the logical course will be to crush all opposition under the judgement of war, and then dismember the empire. This would seem to be safer and cheaper, if the parties in interest can reach a peaceable agreement. The problem hereafter would be, if China is maintained as an entity, to keep modern implements of war out of the hands of the Chinese. This cannot be done, as has been abundantly proved in Cuba, the Philippines, the Transvaal and on the Gold Coast. Of course, the policy of the United States is not necessarily the same as that of Europe. It has no legitimate interests in China beyond securing reparation for the injury done its citizens in life and property, and the protection of others who have thus far escaped. It will be strange if Europe does not consummate what it has so long had in mind—the absolute destruction of China as a nation.

American Athletics outlasted the world in the events at the Paris Exposition, capturing eight out of ten first in Sunday's contests despite the fact that some of the Americans would not contest on that day. The Englishmen were greatly chagrined at their defeat, and English sporting critics, attributing the success of Americans to their training table, have been good enough to remark that "Englishmen prefer to lose as gentlemen." This is another exhibition of that "kameness" in which the Englishman has uniformly declared he excels the world.

During the past year the additions to the American Merchant Marine have been larger than in any year since 1856. Vessels constructed during the year had a tonnage of 281,863, of which 483 vessels with a capacity of 213,662 were steamers. The total tonnage is put at 5,000,000, which is the largest since 1865. These figures show the emptiness of the cry of a "decaying merchant marine" and expose the ship subsidy scheme for the naked steal it is.

THE STATE PRESS. "J. M. Bowyer, while fishing near Rocky Ford, caught a shoe-string eel. He left it on the hook as bait, and threw it back into the water. In a moment he had a bite and drew out a 12-pound turtle. He was satisfied with this and kept the turtle, though there is an impression among his friends that if he had thrown the turtle back he could have caught a whale."—Bedford Bulletin.

As we have previously remarked, the season of fish stories is at hand. Enthusiasts are at liberty to add the above to their collections. "If you agree with Mr. Bryan in everything except one thing and only agree with Mr. McKinley in one thing how do you reason yourself in voting for the one rather than the other?"—Farmville Herald.

Reason has not and never has had anything to do with the contingent to which you refer. Do the orthodox ever reason as to "heresy?" Heretics should be burned or skewered. Mr. Bryan believes in the "free silver heresy." That always settles it. "The changes in the Constitution of Virginia ought to be submitted to the people for approval or rejection. That is Democratic. There is no sense or righteousness in prating and mouthing in general terms of the virtues and rights of the people and then assuming that they cannot be trusted to act wisely on their own laws. The changes in the Constitution should be so few, so simple and so plainly just and right, and so obvious that all the people can understand them and see the propriety of them."—Richmond News.

Which is as sensible as anything that has gotten itself said in all the flurry of wind and rain of ink. Public business is just plain, common sense anyway, is it not? "With this issue the News begins the fourth year of its existence. During this time it has been our object to give a clean sheet, free from any personal animosity, and to discuss all the subjects of interest and importance to our people. It shall be our purpose in the future to stand for what is right and just in public matters."—Accomack News.

There is nothing the matter with either the profession or the practice of the News. It is that most worthy and indispensable of institutions—a clean and courageous country newspaper.

McGovern is now entitled to rank among the pugs who have possible stage futures.

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