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Champ Clark's
Letter -

Lack of Harmony in Republican Ranks—Senate Stands on Its Dignity—The Wave of Political Reform—Concerning Party Leaders

[Special Washington Letter.]
 IN the grand, historic county of Pike, in the imperial state of Missouri, where I have the honor to reside, Salt River township, once thickly but now thickly populated and at this writing the seat of the largest dynamite mill in the world, used to be entitled to only one delegate in Democratic county conventions. On a certain occasion a hot fight was on in a convention. In the midst of it Uncle Henry Ashburn, a man of great good sense and much sly humor, the sole delegate from Salt River, convulsed the audience by solemnly arising and saying, "Mr. Chairman, the Salt River delegation is divided and desires to retire for consultation." That is precisely what the Republicans will have to do before long at the rate they are going now. The president and the senate are at loggerheads about the arbitration treaties. The senate and house are at loggerheads over the statehood bill. Unless the senate passes a good bill regulating railroad freight rates the president and congress will be at loggerheads over that, and there will be confusion worse confounded. The break has come. On Saturday, Feb. 11, the senate turned the president down on the arbitration treaties question by the astounding vote of 50 to 9. Those voting for the presidential contention were Dooliver, Fairbanks, Hopkins, McCumber, Nelson, Platt of Connecticut, Stewart, Warren and Wetmore.

Those voting against his contention were Allee, Allison, Ankeny, Bacon, Bailey, Bard, Bate, Berry, Blackburn, Burnham, Burrows, Carmack, Clark of Wyoming, Clay, Culberson, Cullom, Daniel, Dick, Dillingham, Dryden, Foraker, Foster of Louisiana, Foster of Washington, Fulton, Gallinger, Gamble, Gorman, Hale, Hansbrough, Heyburn, Keam, Kittredge, Latimer, Lodge, Long, McComas, McCreary, McLaurin, Money, Morgan, Newlands, Overman, Patterson, Perkins, Scott, Smoot, Spooner, Stone, Taliaferro and Teller.

It will be observed that in the list of those opposing the president are many of the ablest Republican senators, some of whom, like Spooner and Foraker, are notable not only for capacity, but as having been hot champions of the president for the nomination and hitherto his thick and thin champions. Even the name of Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, defender in chief of the presidential faith, was counted against his position. It will not do to say that the matter is controversy—the substitution of the word "treaty" for the word "agreement"—is small and inconsequential, about which the president cares nothing. He does care much—so much, in fact, that he wrote a long and most vigorous letter on the subject to Hon. Shelby M. Cullom, chairman of the senate foreign affairs committee, urging the importance of his own view with all his power. That it is the beginning of an open breach between him and the senate is generally concluded. This is all the more remarkable when it is remembered that when that vote was taken he had still twenty-one days of his present term to serve and four years of the one to which he was recently elected by an overwhelming majority. The Washington Post, independent, but very friendly to the president, commenting on it, says, "The situation in the senate over the arbitration treaties has been strained for several weeks." Will the senate back down from its advanced position? Hardly, for there is one question on which it usually stands firm as a rock, and that is senatorial prerogative, which senators say is involved. Will the president back down? Perish the thought! What then? War to the knife betwixt the Republican president and the Republican senate!

"The Santo Domingo Problem."
 Under the above caption the Buffalo Courier says editorially:
 Nobody quite understands the Santo Domingo affair. The public has not even authentic news of what has been done or is doing at the island. The administration attempted a "new departure" of extreme seriousness without taking the people or congress into its confidence, with the almost natural results of resentment and suspicion. "There are obviously some flat contradictions in the testimony of our fleet agent, Judge Abbott, and Commander Dillingham," the New York Evening Post observes. "On the question of the actual money receipts at Puerto Plata it ought to be possible to test the conflicting statements of the two by appeal to the books. Instead of that the administration dispatches intimate that Judge Abbott is 'hostile' to its plans. That may be, and yet he may be telling the truth. There is evidently room for a great deal of official frankness about the whole Santo Domingo mess." The senate probably will insist upon knowing all about the case. What was the use of obscuring it? The chances seem now that the senators may be much slower to take favorable action on the proposed treaty than if the negotiations conducted with President Morales by the state department had been more open and aboveboard. The episode of last Saturday showed how acutely jealous the senate is of any appropriation of the power belonging to it by the executive. Mr. Roosevelt probably feels somewhat humiliated and doubtless is angered. Recent developments have been such as may weaken the extravagant notions that have obtained in Europe as to his authority and prestige. Folks beyond the sea are discovering that he is only a part, not the whole, of the American government.

"Well Shaken."
 There can be no question that there are such things as moral waves, just as there are hot waves and cold waves.

No more can it be disputed that a moral wave of cyclonic power is sweeping over the land at the present time. The exact time or place of its beginning cannot be fixed with anything approximating exactness. Neither can the person be named who started it. The truth seems to be that it was a case of many minds with but one thought and one desire—the purification of politics and of legislation. It has been confined to no locality, to no party and to no branch of the public service. A Republican president of the United States has lent a hand. So has the present Democratic governor of Missouri. So has a Democratic mayor of Chicago. So have the Republican authorities of Minneapolis. A chief of the greatest division in the postoffice department and his participants criminals are in felons' cells. Senator Burton of Kansas was convicted of a grave misdemeanor. His case was revived and remanded. He now awaits a new trial. Senator Mitchell and the two representatives from Oregon, together with a horde of smaller officials from that state, are under indictment. A mayor of one of the Twin Cities of Minnesota was convicted of a felony. While circuit attorney of St. Louis Governor Folk sent several officials to the penitentiary. Bigwigs are being prosecuted in California and in Texas. Senator Dubois promises startling revelations of the fraudulent performances of federal officers in Idaho if he may be permitted to lift the lid. A reformer in Illinois who could not prove what he said about wholesale corruption in the legislature has been expelled from that body. There is much talk of corruption in Kansas, and in that state there is an agitation on to enact a statute making the soliciting of a bribe a penal offense because the Kansas supreme court has just decided that soliciting a bribe is not a crime under any law now existing.

The New York Bar association is now considering charges against a high judicial officer of that state. Congress is now engaged in impeaching Judge Charles Swaine of Florida for high crimes and misdemeanors. Half of the state legislatures are incubating severer laws on the subject of bribery and boodling. The retiring governor of Indiana in his valedictory address described a condition of election corruption in Hoosierdom which is almost incredible in the blazing light of the opening years of the new century. Even in Philadelphia there are signs of political regeneration. There appears to be a general shaking up all along the line except in Delaware. In that little state the biennial senatorial scandal now smells to heaven, with no sign of abatement. All these efforts at reform in national, state and municipal affairs work together for good. Some mistakes may be made. Some innocent persons may be wrongfully charged with offenses, but if so their innocence will be made to appear. Every where the people are showing a determination to put an end to corrupt practices in elections and in legislation. When the public conscience is thoroughly aroused it can work wonders, and it is becoming thoroughly aroused. In "the good old days" of which we hear so much sometimes more than \$100,000 was expended in purchasing a single seat in parliament, but in recent times a member was expelled from the house of commons because during his canvass he had paid for a dinner for a voter. The world seems to be growing better despite the howl of the pessimists. Of course it has not reached perfection yet. If it had there would be no room for reforms and reformers. But the reform agitation now shaking the land will help, let us hope, to shove it on toward ultimate perfection, which is the millennium.

Political "Leaders."
 In every state in the Union there are real political leaders, but only in two or three are there men who are named "leaders." New York belongs to the latter class. Not long since ex-Governor and ex-Senator David Bennett Hill announced that on Jan. 1, 1906, he would retire from politics, whereupon the fact was commented on in a thousand newspapers that he had "resigned the Democratic leadership" in the state, as though it were really an office to which he had been appointed or elected. Now the papers are gravely discussing the question as to who shall succeed him in the leadership, and the Parker and anti-Parker forces appear to be lining up for a tussle for capturing that position. At present the Republican leadership in New York seems to be a double header. The two heads are Chairman Benjamin B. Odell and United States Senator Thomas Collier Platt. The latter won as to the Dewey senatorship, which was the last bout. How they will come out next time remains to be seen. For Odell still retains a grip on the state machine. If Platt controls the federal patronage he may down Benjamin, and vice versa. In the meantime the Buffalo papers are grooming Norman E. Mack as Senator Hill's successor in the state leadership. The Parker contingent seem to prefer Judge Herrick.

Sometimes a political "leader" is dubbed a "boss," which is a less euphemistic term, but it means about the same. For instance, "Boss" Croker never ran things with a higher hand in

Greater New York than "Leader" Penrose runs them in Pennsylvania. When Matthew Stanley Quay, who was somewhat of a "leader" himself, shook off this mortal coil and Penrose had donned his mantle, nobody had any idea who would succeed Quay in the senate until certain captains of industry commanded privately with "Leader" Penrose. At the conclusion of their seance it was announced that Philander C. Knox was the man, and no one dared oppose the fiat of the "leader," though the public believed that Hon. John D.zell, representative in congress from Pittsburg, deserved the honor. The how of this "leadership" business constitutes a psychological problem which I have neither time nor space to discuss. It's a queer thing, furnishing much food for reflection. I remit its solution to my multitudinous readers.

SPARKLING CUT GLASS.
 Its Original Luster Retained by the Sawdust Bath—Carafe Cleaning.
 What bride to be does not exclaim with delight and admiration over the presents that begin to come from relatives and friends as the great day draws near, and especially when the opened box reveals a piece of cut glass? In her mind's eye she sees it in the dining room of the new home which is to be all her own, adorning the buffet and the table, sparkling among the silver which has so generously been given her or standing on beautifully embroidered doilies upon the dark polished table.
 The careful housekeeper has her silver cleaned once a week or once in two weeks, and why should the cut glass be neglected as much as it ordinarily is? True, as it is used it necessarily has to be washed, but that is an entirely different matter from washing it by itself to give it back its original luster and sparkle. It is then very apt to go into the dish pan with a lot of other things and be hastily washed and dried with an ordinary dish towel, or maybe it is on the top of the heap of dirty dishes and receives the benefit of a whole kettleful of boiling water. Then you will probably be informed by Mary that "it just fell apart by itself." She "did not even have it" in her hands.
 In washing your glass do not have the water too warm. Some people think that the water should be almost at the boiling point, but that is a mistake. The water should be only lukewarm, with a little ammonia in it and only enough soap to make a slight suds. A toothbrush will aid in reaching into the deep cuts. After the glass has been washed it should be rinsed in water of the same temperature, with a little of ammonia in it, and then dried in a box of sawdust. Do not try to dry it with a towel. You will be sure to get lint into the cutting, and, besides that, it will not sparkle as brilliantly.
 Have a box of sawdust large enough so that you can pack several pieces in at once. Leave the glass in the dust for a few moments, and then take it out and brush off the particles that adhere to it and see how the light will make rainbows sparkle on its surface.
 If there are carafes and bottles that are difficult to wash inside, put small bits of white potatoes into them and shake violently.—Table Talk.

A Reformer Indeed.
 General Morrell, a representative in congress, is a Reformer with a big R. He must be awake of nights inducing insomnia by pestering his head in hatching new Reforms, always with a big, big R. It will be remembered by those who pay any attention to legislative doings in Washington that not long since the general gave Judge Crumpacker of Indiana the cold shivers by infringing on his patent by introducing a bill of his own to cut down southern representation in congress because certain states have eliminated the colored man and brother from the political equation. Not satisfied with his great effort at political reform, the general has ventured into the field of moral reform by introducing a bill forbidding the employment in federal office, including the army and navy, of any person who has been divorced for any cause not recognized in the Bible or of the guilty party to any divorce.

Et Tu, Henry Cabot!
 When President Roosevelt read Hon. Henry Cabot Lodge's remarks in the senate about upholding the dignity of that august body against assaults from the White House and observed his vote on the burning question as to whether the word "treaty" should be substituted for the word "agreement" in the arbitration treaties he must have felt as did Caesar when he fell at the foot of Pompey's statue exclaiming, "Et tu, Brute!" except that he would have substituted for that famous ejaculation the words, "Et tu, Henry Cabot!" for it has been orated about now for about three and a half years that the senior senator from Massachusetts is the fidus Achates of the president. The ungodly did for a long time insinuate that he even took lessons in equestrianism in order that he might ride out with the president, who, if not half horse and half alligator, as a certain backwoodsman vaunted himself, at least sits a horse as though he had been born in the saddle. It has been said that Senator Lodge is the most frequent of White House visitors, having the entree into that famous and garish mansion at all hours of the day or night. He has been supposed to be what in General Jackson's day would have been denominated chief of the kitchen cabinet and to have greater influence over Colonel Roosevelt than any other living man. They are both Harvard men, authors and of scholarly tastes. All official Washington therefore gasped for breath when the newspapers stated the fact that in a case in which the president evidently has his heart much set on having his own way Senator Lodge has spoken and voted to uphold the dignity of the senate as against the president.

If the departed spirits of the mighty dead take any interest in mundane affairs, Louis Kossuth, who once aroused intense furore in the world, must be delighted with the performances of the younger Kossuth, present leader of the Hungarian Independence party, who is demanding feasible things for his people and who has recently had a long and most important audience with the venerable Emperor Francis Joseph. What Kossuth is now aiming at is not a dynastic separation from the empire, but legislative independence.
 It seems that Kansas, with her proverbial pluck, proposes to put a crimp in the tail of the Standard Oil octopus by establishing an oil refinery of her own despite the threats of John D. Rockefeller. She succeeded splendidly in her experiment of making her own blinder twine. The world will watch with bated breath her venture into oil, wishing her a safe deliverance.

Of all the ghastly forces in this world surely a congressional funeral heads the list. Reference is not here made to what is termed a "state funeral," such as was accorded the late Governor Dingley, for instance, when the president and his cabinet, the supreme court, the diplomatic corps and the chiefs of the army and navy crowd into the hall of the house, but to the ordinary funeral service in the house. Sunday, the 12th, the house had services in honor of Senator Hoar. Twelve representatives delivered speeches, with a few gallery attendants, listened to them. Such is fame!

Smart Alects may now cease to poke fun at the theory of that great Missourian, Mark Twain, that a sure test for identifying a person is by the thumb print since the stealer of a \$6,500 express package at Pittsburg has been detected and brought to justice in that way. Mark Twain has a great head. He is the prince of humorists, but he is also a great philosopher. Vive le grand Missourian!

In Sheep's Clothing.
 "There is one thing certain"—the girl in the blue gown paused impressively—"I shall never under any circumstances send any one a souvenir postal card."
 "They are very pretty sometimes," the girl with the black hat suggested.
 "They seemed very pretty and convenient when they first came into vogue, but they have ceased to be anything but a delusion and a snare." The girl in blue spoke feelingly. "A few years ago when one's friends went away they wrote letters—interesting, newsy letters—several pages long. Now they buy a postal card with a picture of some old abbey or castle or skyscraper or bridge on it and write 'Affectionately, Laura,' or 'Do write soon, Jack,' and seem to think they have done their duty. I may have to resort to wireless telegraphy, but I shall never tantalize a friend of mine with one of those wolves in sheep's clothing, a souvenir postal."

Ripples of Fashion.
 No halfway prevails in fans. They are either very small or extremely large.
 Untrimmed skirts are in highest favor for girls' frocks, but a few tucks are permissible.
 Silk elastic girdles are much worn and are especially smart with the outside blouse jacket.
 Elbow sleeves in all garments with undersleeves and long gloves for the street is the present vogue.
 The turban toque sharply pointed in front and the quaint three cornered hats are foremost in early styles.
 There is nothing so inexpensive or that will answer to the closest economy better than a cashmere shirt waist suit.
 Oval sleeve buttons in gold display three different colored stones, as a ruby, yellow topaz and emerald in the center.
 Peau de soie, taffeta, grosgrain silk, panne, embroidered crape, brocaded satin or silk may be used for the fashionable girle.
 The latest fitted hand bag is of dolphin leather in a delicate reseda shade, lined with silk and supplied with purse, cardcase and smelling salts—the fashionable woman's full requirement.

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A subscriber to the Southern Agriculturist secured the original seed from an old Indian in Northwest Texas. After experimenting with it seven years he wrote that paper: "With good ground and care it will make from 50 to 100 bushels to the acre, and planted thick and cut stalk and all it will make more feed and better feed than anything I ever saw. The old Indian said poultry fed on it would never have the cholera. I have not lost a fowl with cholera since I have been raising it. It also pops beautifully." This article brought hundreds of requests for seed, and now only a few bushels are left. Send 10c for a 3 months' trial subscription to Southern Agriculturist, 39 C. F. Bldg., Nashville, Tenn., and you will get 100 seed by return mail, also details of \$50 prize seed-growing contest.

HIGH WATER POSSIBILITIES.
 Times-Democrat: When the recent bad weather, the heavy rains and accompanying thaw, caused high water in so many of the Southern streams, especially in tributaries of the Mississippi, public attention was called to the great river, and a desire was shown for information both as to the possibilities of a flood the coming spring and the probability of the levees being high and strong enough to withstand it.
 Such facts as were hurriedly collected at the time were most encouraging on this point. Attention was called to the splendid condition of the levees, infinitely better than ever before, for the two reasons that more liberal appropriations for their construction and a long period of low water, during which the work could be carried on continuously and to the best advantage, had allowed of more active levee construction than ever before.

Since then, however, the matter has been more carefully considered and investigated, and it has fully confirmed all the earlier reports. There is no prospect of more than the average spring rise; but even if this rise were greater than ever before, there is nothing to apprehend. The alluvial lands of the lower Mississippi were never better leveed and never better prepared to withstand any flood that may show itself. First, as to a possible flood. It is not a difficult matter to determine long in advance how high the water is likely to be the following spring. If we know what amount of snow and ice is stowed away in the country tributary to the river we can calculate how much water this will create when a thaw comes, and, therefore, how high the streams are likely to be. The unanimous opinion is that the snow and ice now stored up is barely sufficient, with the average rainfall, to give us a bankfull river, the water rising to the foot of the levees and causing no strain on them. As a matter of fact, while the winter has been a phenomenally severe one, it has not stored up any large quantities of snow; it has been a succession of cold snaps and blizzards, followed by warm spells and thaws—this being one of the chief causes of the severity. As a result the snow has melted as it has fallen, and there will be comparatively little left for the big spring thaw.

The only doubtful element is the rainfall of the next few weeks; but even if this is abnormally high, worse than that of any previous winter, it will not bring us up to the high water average of previous years.

With the chances so greatly against the high water of previous years, and with the levees infinitely better than they have ever been, the river and levee experts are unanimous in telling us that there is nothing whatever to fear on this score.

The State Supreme Court in a decision rendered last Monday declared that the act of the Legislature imposing a license tax upon traveling salesmen, and placing them in the same category as peddlers and hawkers, was unconstitutional. This case was carried up from the parish of LaFourche by Joseph Narreau, a representative of the Leon Godchaux Clothing Company of New Orleans, who was fined for selling merchandise by sample and taxing orders for future delivery.—Ruston Leader.

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