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COUNTRY SUBSCRIPTIONS.

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tion, which his excellency fails to recognize.

Article 2, section 2, declares that "the president shall be commander-in-chief of the army and navy of the United States, and of the militia of the several states when called into the actual service of the United States."

When President Washington entered upon his office he made three appointments, viz., Thomas Jefferson, secretary of state; Alexander Hamilton, secretary of the treasury; and Gen. Henry Knox, secretary of war.

The idea of creating a military academy for the education of officers was suggested by Col. Pickersay as early as 1783, and in 1790, the second year of Washington's administration, the original purchase of 1,795 acres of the tract at West Point by the United States government was made.

Provision for the maintenance of a military school was also made by congress May 7, 1791, under which act four battalions of engineers and artilleryists were organized, and to each of these four cadets were attached.

In 1798 another regiment of artilleryists was authorized, and the class of students was increased to fifty-six. This was the beginning of the standing army of the United States, and all under Washington's administration.

In March, 1802, the military peace establishment was fixed by congress, and this has been enlarged from time to time, until, just preceding the Civil war in 1861, the numbers were approximately 100,000.

In 1861, at the disbandment of the volunteers, the regular army was placed at about 25,000 officers and men, at which it remained until war was declared against Spain last spring.

His excellency, while in congress, no doubt voted for the annual appropriation bill for the maintenance of the regular or standing army. He is aware, of course, that all the bills thus passed for all the departments are for the expenditures within the fiscal year ending every June 30.

So far as the navy is concerned, the annual appropriation for the amount that shall be expended during that year for the maintenance of the navy and upon the war ships that may be in process of construction "for continuation of work on," or "for the completion of work on," giving the name of the vessel to which the appropriation is to apply.

This is necessary, inasmuch as a vessel of great dimensions could not be properly constructed within a period of twelve months, and it has frequently happened that work on a vessel has been suspended for several years, owing to the failure of congress to vote the necessary funds.

This was notably the case with the monitor Monadnock, now giving so good an account of herself in the Philippines. Indeed, the same method was adapted to the great rifles on the coast defenses. But the army and navy of the United States are the legitimate children of the constitution as completely as is the postoffice department or the federal courts, and the "regular" rightfully occupies his place in that great fundamental instrument of our government.

But Gov. Lind is perfectly right in his declaration that the regular standing army is undemocratic; it is a burden upon the people; it is a source of danger to the republic when it assumes so large proportions, subject to the will of a chief executive. Nor should the power to increase that army, which will ever be conferred upon any president, who may elect, Gen. Grant would himself have discouraged such a proposition. Instead of fostering it, and no executive ever enjoyed the confidence of the whole people in so absolute a degree.

The volunteer, as the governor says, can be relied upon to respond to any call of duty, and will always continue to serve with distinction in the future as in the past, and as he is doing so nobly today.

But new conditions have been forced upon us. The nation has grown materially, and, whether we fancy the idea or not, an increase of the standing or regular army is a duty which the country owes to itself. But the figure to which the increase shall be made should be strictly limited by law, say to possibly 60,000 officers and men in the present emergency. The country is nominally at peace; and, if the Philippine troubles enlarge to the proportions of a lingering insurrection, it is the duty of congress to act, and of the president to call the new congress together, if necessary. It is no part of the duty of congress to shirk responsibility and repose discretionary power with the president, unless they openly declare war upon the Filipinos and authorize another call for volunteers.

The governor's principles in connection with the subject are all right. He takes the proper view of the dangers which are to be found in a large standing army, as the phrase is understood in European countries. But, as a good volunteer himself, he should not hesitate, in view of all the facts, to return the "regular" to his proper "place in the constitution."

The Hanna-Payne Ship Bounty Bill. There does not really appear to be any evidence of wholesome national instinct in the minority report of the committee of the house having under consideration the Hanna-Payne ship bounty bill, declaring against the measure on the ground of economy. The chief purpose of the bill in question is to provide means for the carrying of our commodities and products and merchandise exported to other countries in American ships and to distribute among our own people the vast sums now paid to the subsidized steamship lines of other countries, such as England, Germany and France.

The minority urge that the proposed measure would provide for an expenditure of \$8,250,000 a year and that during the prescribed twenty years the total cost would be \$165,000,000. Well, what if it does? It is not better that this money should be expended among American ship-builders and mechanics and owners than that two or three times that sum should be distributed among investors in foreign steamship companies, for freight charges, from which large dividends shall be paid?

The Hanna-Payne bill in a measure repeats the provisions of the law of 1892 admitting foreign built ships with the understanding that for the amount of tonnage brought in from abroad in the form of new ships, a like amount shall be supplied through home construction. The only notable illustration of the operation of that law was in the case of the American Line, which after purchasing the foreign built

ships, the City of New York and the City of Paris, caused the St. Louis and the St. Paul to be built at Cramp & Sons ship yards, at Philadelphia; and still, in accordance with the provisions of the law, these ships were pressed into the service of the United States navy during the recent Spanish war and rendered most effective service. Meanwhile, the revenues which have been derived from their carrying charges in the merchant marine service of the United States have gone to strengthen an American rather than a foreign industry.

The warships of our navy were all American-built. The record which they made for themselves during our late naval conflicts is a matter of history, and a very proud record at that. When the construction of the new navy began during the first administration of President Cleveland, and while William C. Whitney was at the head of the department, the cost seemed high. His work went on, and one ship was added to the fleet until, in Mr. Cleveland's second administration, Secretary Herbert was able to declare, upon the basis of figures, that the price per ton for the gunboats Nashville, Helena and Wilmington, which were built at Newport News, was "fully as low as is paid for similar work in France or England."

Since that date, how quiet a sea has been the price of material has been going lower and lower until the United Kingdom is importing our steel plates to the shipyards of Scotland. We pay more for labor here than the operators pay abroad; but Commissioner of Navigation Chamberlain has recently expressed the opinion that "the time is not many years distant when we will build ships as cheaply as they can be built anywhere in the world."

Then why do the minority of the house committee object to this first substantial step that has been made in many years in the direction of building up our merchant marine, by allowing a bounty on tons actually carried whereby the home construction of ships may be encouraged? In 1861 the tonnage of American ships was 5,539,812 tons, and those were days of wooden vessels only. But the decline began a decade earlier, when ships with iron and steel hulls appeared practicable for future use. The Civil war paralyzed the industry, and the subsequent higher prices for material and labor completely annihilated every effort made toward recovery in the absence of subsidies, which, in the form proposed, were unpopular as well as unpractical. On the total tonnage of our merchant marine, of register, was 4,769,029, or 770,812 tons less than in 1861.

If the proposition to pay the bounties provided for in the Hanna-Payne bill is defeated, the only alternative is a law admitting foreign-built ships free. The emergency may for a time exist, if our commerce increases in the ratio of increase during the past few years. The admission of foreign-built ships, but no such law should be continuous, especially in view of the constantly diminishing cost of construction here.

Activity in Cotton Goods. The Rhode Island cotton goods manufacturers have recently advanced the wages of their operatives to a scale from which reductions were made during the period of depression a few years ago. This fact is accepted as an evidence that the New England manufacturer of cotton fabrics has not yet been completely paralyzed by the industrial depression made in the South in the same line.

Unquestionably the New England mills will continue their operations for a number of years to come; but meanwhile it is not unreasonable to believe that the capital invested in the industry will largely be gradually withdrawn and follow southward that which has already found its way from points at which it may meet the raw material, and the cost of transportation for long distances.

But in the nature of things New England products of the higher grades must long continue to lead those of the mills of the South. There is a freshness about these latter establishments which it will require several years of experience and gradual improvement of methods and facilities to overcome. The operatives of New England have been well drilled in their occupations, the well drilled in their occupations, the parents in the work. The factories of the South cannot be supplied, all at once, with these advantages, and emigration of the more skilled in the New England mills to localities in the South is not sufficiently inviting, as yet, to lead to much advancement in the quality of production. But, judging from the material already made in the Gulf states in manufacturing cotton goods, it is already evident that eventually the leading position so long maintained by New England in connection with this industry must be abandoned. But, after all, it means only the transfer of Yankee genius, capital, methods and industry to the other section of the country, a result which cannot fail of wholesome national results.

The New England manufacturers have had a long and trying siege waiting for the improvement in general trade to come to their relief. But they were solid institutions, financially; their managers were plucky; they went on throughout the period of poor sales, buying up stocks with which to meet the demand when it should come. The great harvests of 1887 and 1898 put money in the pockets of the people, whose furnishings had, meanwhile, become greatly exhausted. The tide for which the manufacturers had prepared themselves arose, accompanied, too, by an export demand unlooked for in its proportions. The volume of overstock was quickly disposed of, and now all is activity and hopefulness for the future, and the promise to restore wages has been fulfilled.

But it is evident that Southern development of manufactures will be seriously watched, and that the transfer of the cotton spinning industry of New England will be gradual, though no one need apprehend its total extinction, certainly not until after many years of the next century have passed.

Bishop Isaac W. Joyce will give his lecture, "An American China, Japan, Korea," at the First Norwegian and Danish M. E. church, Broadway and Thirteenth streets, on the evening of March 2. The proceeds will be applied to the church expenses.

Does anybody remember any kind of weather we haven't had this month? It is quite evident that President Loubet does not propose to be Dreyfused, but he is expected to stop over for a day.

Dr. M. D. Edwards will discuss before the pastors' union next Monday, at 10:30 a. m., at the Y. M. C. A., the "Free Church Catechism," which has just appeared in England.

What fools these mortals be! The Filipinos burned the roofs from over their own heads.

Sounds like a Boston paper, but it was a St. Louis exchange that said:

"Let Chicago automobilize her vehicular conveyances if she chooses."

Osteopathy is still clamoring for recognition, but so far has failed to catch the speaker's eye. It would be no more than appropriate to call an extra session of congress in honor of Senator Dewey.

When the Thirteenth Minnesota is called on to fight it doesn't do anything else till it is through. The Nicaragua canal amendment tacked on to the civil sundry bill was found to be too rough a rider.

A Chicago paper says that Secretary Alger is one of the best judges of timber who ever came down the line. He does seem to be saving considerable wood just now.

The three greatest pacers in the world are John R. Gentry, Joe Patchen and Star Pointer. But when it comes to pacemakers Admiral George Dewey is in a class all by himself.

A Paris correspondent notes that President Loubet is a "colorless man." He might have been so once, but there has been considerable red paint as well as red fire used since his election.

Philadelphia has chosen its coroner mayor. With Philadelphia dead and a coroner its chief, there seems to be no reason why the funeral cortege should not move without further delay.

A New York horticulturist having written a column story on how the strawberry is constructed, will he kindly tell us how to afford the strawberry of commerce on our tables in February?

Whenever a zealous speaker addresses the inmates of the Stillwater penitentiary on the theme of Warden Wolf-er's humanity and kindness, somehow or other the convicts are inclined to shed hisses instead of tears.

A bill is pending in the Texas legislature making the proof that a man has been called a liar a justifiable defense in case of an assault. What's the use of making a man a liar, if the courts have had little to say over the sanguinary results of calling a man a liar.

Epistles to St. Paul. As the train pulled out of St. Louis last evening, bearing the "My Friend From India" company, that plays at the Grand next week, which was en route to Cincinnati, William G. Smyth, one of the proprietors of the company, entered the buffet and encoined himself in a comfortable chair, drew out a long cigar and entered deeply into his paper. "Traveling East" interrupted another traveler shortly.

Mr. Smyth looked at his questioner, replying: "Yes." "Pleasure?" "Yes, and no." "Great place, New York, ever been there before?" "No." "I'm going home this trip, New York, you know." Mr. Smyth made no reply but resumed his paper. After a little while the commercial man began again:

"My firm is on Broadway. If you will drop in, I will show you the city." "Thank you, it will not be necessary." "Excuse me, but might I ask what you are going to New York for?" "By this time most of the other passengers were entered the buffet, who extremely enjoyed at the drummer's curiosity, laid down his paper and exclaimed:

"I'm going to New York, first, because the train is taking me there; second, because I've got lots of money and I want to spend it; and last, because I like the place I intend to buy it." "Gen. Moses Clapp and several friends were seated at a table in a Robert street cafe Wednesday. At a table next to him was seated M. A. Beckman, of the city comptroller's office. All parties were awaiting strictly for the reporter to make a notable and Tony Konora, the joker of the Pabst Brewing company. Going up to Beckman he said:

"Did you know that Washington's coffin stands on end in the mausoleum where it is placed?" Beckman said nothing; in fact, he didn't have a chance to say anything. Gen. Clapp took a hand in, and said:

"I've given you a lesson. I have seen the sarcophagus wherein repose all that is mortal of George Washington, and I know it lies in a horizontal position," and the general turned to his friends, as though the well drilled in their occupations, the parents in the work. The factories of the South cannot be supplied, all at once, with these advantages, and emigration of the more skilled in the New England mills to localities in the South is not sufficiently inviting, as yet, to lead to much advancement in the quality of production. But, judging from the material already made in the Gulf states in manufacturing cotton goods, it is already evident that eventually the leading position so long maintained by New England in connection with this industry must be abandoned. But, after all, it means only the transfer of Yankee genius, capital, methods and industry to the other section of the country, a result which cannot fail of wholesome national results.

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DRAMATIC

METROPOLITAN.

In "The Meddler," in which Stuart Robson, supported by an excellent company, opened a half week's engagement last evening, Augustus Thomas has written for this veteran comedian a comedy of errors that rivals in its ludicrousness the comedy "A Night of Errors" in which Mr. Robson made one of his first great hits. "The Meddler" (Mr. Robson) is a French artist, whose studio adjacent to the Paris opera house, and then a rugged, rock-bound coast against which splashes a mighty flood. The Meddler's character is almost as varied as his locale. He is a range, save, perhaps, that repose is not one of his recesses. Robson does not affect the languid role; his person is identified with the high-strung, although, comical actor as he is, he is master of that repose which is the result of a nervous comedy. He would not be thrown in the high lights which make it rush to the hearts of his auditors and bubble from their lips as melliflously as it seems to bubble from his own. "The Meddler" is hardly a new comedy, but in the play, describes him as a "flamboyant jacks," which is objectionable only to the quadruped. Dramatically, however, he is a most interesting character, and a lot of people take estrangements, critical collisions that fill three acts with excellent comedy situations. The action of "The Meddler" is continuous. Mr. Robson's rendition of the role is excellent. At the close of the second act he was given an enthusiastic curtain call, to which he responded with a witty speech, or collection of epigrams, that was only questionable on the score that the kernels of wisdom were sundried.

Theodore Babcock, as Chandler, has a role scarcely second in interest to that of the Meddler, and to have entrusted it to a better hand would have been a pity. Mr. Babcock's work, less known here, perhaps than it is in the East, is refined, rather than sensational. In this piece he plays a reputedly brilliant, but somewhat feeble, and whom the women seem to think of as a thing of the men unseemly ones. Mr. Babcock's Chandler does not dispute the justice of the gossip whispered against him, but by an airy handling, and invariably pleasant address, rather than the bouffant of the usual stage Lothario, rarely lends to the popular impression that he is a man for women to beware, for men to envy. Mr. Babcock's treatment of the role is characterized by the polish he has shown in other roles that have given him a modest fame. He reads his lines with excellent effect, and resists any disposition to overact which might be expected in a dramatic situation, especially in the third act, where the nonchalant and unscarred hero of many supposed "affairs" admits falling in love with a pretty young woman who has little of the worldly, but that is in the shoulder line.

Miss Marie Burroughs, as Mrs. Bancroft, appears in a role that is not as heavy as some she has essayed in the past, but which nevertheless gives her splendid opportunities for displaying her performance, and ability, which she possesses. The victim of the latest and choicest bit of gossip concerning Chandler, into which she is drawn by "The Meddler," Miss Burroughs conducts herself through a series of exceedingly dramatic situations, without once forgetting the quiet dignity that is due the society woman of her station. Miss Burroughs has learned well that true beauty lies more in the mind than in the face. A shrug of her shoulder, a look of her eye, a nervous fingering of a fan there, when done as she does them, convey much more delicately the emotions she is presumed to feel than any words could.

Mrs. Robson's role, Mrs. Porter, betrothed to "The Meddler," is a disappointment. Not that it is not well done, but that there is so little of it. Mr. Mand Granger gives a very clever bit in the comparatively small part of Mrs. Oliphant, and Miss Gertrude Perry is a sweet Bessie. Apparently much younger than her stage associates, this young woman gives evidence of not a little dramatic ability, as well as a praiseworthy disposition to let every line entrusted to her tell its story as well as it may, but not to omit the delicate shading of art. There are few instances to whom Miss Perry need do homage.

Frank C. Bangs, in Capt. Oliphant, has another old man part, yet lively, like his Alabama role, which is done with the vigor which he has shown in the dramatic tradition of the most tender memories. Harold Russell, a local favorite always, is Mr. Bancroft. Mr. Russell's characterization of the miserly, miserly, miserly miserly miserly, personage, is everywhere animated by a most consistent harmony. Mr. Russell's mobile face, not less than his excellent stage presence, helps to make this role interesting, even amusing.

George Fauschetter, as Mr. Shiraz, a novelist, has duties less exacting than those of a manager. For both he deserves not a little credit for the force and the smoothness of the ensemble unimpeachable. "The Meddler" fills out the week.

GRAND. Robert B. Mantell, with his company last evening produced "Othello" at the Grand in a manner that surprised those who thought the great tragedians were all dead. For though the Moor Mr. Mantell proved himself, in many scenes and passages, he was equal to any who have gone before him; and as Desdemona Miss Corona Riccardo added to the reputation she has made as a natural, graceful and popular actress, she was equally equal to the part of Desdemona.

A more finished production than that of last night was rarely given in this city. Throughout the five acts of the gloomy tragedy there was not an incident to mar an actor or detract from the picturesque of a scene, and this augmented the pleasure of the spectators.

Mr. Mantell may be called a great Othello, needing but a few touches here and there. He possesses presence, voice and art, but there were a few passages last night which would have been more effective had he not allowed himself to drop into a slight rant. But these blemishes were not of great consequence, and it seems ungracious to call attention to them.

The Moor is a creature of passion, and Mantell's portrayal of him realizes the ideal of the poet, even amid the fiercest outbursts of love, tenderness, suspicion, doubt, conviction and murder were superbly expressed by him, not only in speech and gesture, but in voice, of which Mantell has a complete mastery. Nothing of the kind has been more thrilling than his dying whisper spoken in dead Desdemona's ear.

Of Desdemona, as impersonated by Miss Riccardo, may be said that there seldom has been given a more natural and convincing characterization. Her elocution was perfect, and she heightened every effect by her simplicity.

The murder scene in the last act is one that may be ruined by overacting, but last night it was enacted with hideous smoothness, and yet without a suggestion of exaggeration. The audience was awed into perfect silence, which was not broken until the curtain fell, when a storm of cheers attested the appreciation of the spectators.

It is not Louden McCormack's fault that he is not a great actor, yet it would be flattery to say that he is not a good actor. He is a good actor, in his hands the character suffers by contrast with its possibilities. He has not the physical presence which that character demands, and last night he was further handicapped by an ungracious cold. Yet at times he was quite acceptable in the role. He was smooth and oily, but sometimes the audience refused to take him seriously, and frequently it was doubtful whether they laughed at Shakespeare's wit or at McCormack's blag.

The Casse of Lawrence Lowell was a pleasant surprise. Mr. Lowell's impersonation was exceedingly clever, and he made a decided hit with the audience. His drinking scene was not broken up by the usual splendor of the act, as was also his interview with Desdemona and his return to Othello's chamber.

Miss Marie Burroughs was the Amelia, and she acquitted herself admirably. Her high ability was shown especially in the death scene, which was acted with deep pathos.

A. J. Whaley was the Rodrigo, and a sigh of relief went up from the audience when he died.

Mr. Mantell will crown his triumphs of the week tonight by producing Hamlet. Mr. Mantell will play the prince and Miss Riccardo Ophelia. It promises to be the finest performance in this company's repertoire.

In Woman's Realm.

SHE CANNOT COOK.