

THE PACIFIC Commercial Advertiser. W. N. ARMSTRONG - EDITOR WEDNESDAY : SEPTEMBER 28 GENERAL SCOFIELD'S OPINION.

Maj. Gen. Schofield, in a letter to Dr. McGrew, dated in May last, referred to the organization of the volunteer army, on unbusinesslike principles, and said:

"But the spirit of the times is to let veterans stand aside on the retired list, and give the boys a chance."

Only thirty-three years had passed since the country had obtained a vast amount of experience in the art of warfare, at a cost exceeding that of any war of the century. This year thousands of experienced soldiers, trained in every detail of the soldier's life, were to be had for the asking. Men who had won their knowledge through fire and sword stood anxiously waiting to be called to the front.

But a new generation controlled and expressed the enthusiasm of the country. War was only a legend to it. The sufferings were not told. But the exploits of its heroes were. The stories of assaults, and charges, and heroic deeds were in all the books. The great solemn books, filled with the ghastly reports of the surgeons were never opened. This generation hardly knows that they were ever written. The terrible side of the story was suppressed by the historians, because the average readers are not students of wars as agencies in the progress of men, but are merely novel readers looking for thrilling adventures.

So when War came, with its grim visage, this ignorant generation, ever loyal and patriotic, welcomed it as a friend that would lead it to glory and adventure. Even Sherman's aphorism that "war is hell," stood to it only as a glittering generality.

There has been, in a sense, no war. Of the great army of 200,000 men enlisted, not 10,000 have been under hot fire. But the real horrors of war, sickness and disease, have done their work. The generation that in the noblest of causes, precipitated it, becomes wiser and sadder. What does it propose to do in the future about it? That is the question.

SOMETHING ABOUT BLAINE.

The Bulletin kindly draws the attention of the Advertiser to the decided contrast in the characters of John L. Stevens and Jas. G. Blaine, in the convention that nominated Mr. Lincoln in 1860. Mr. Stevens supported Mr. Seward and Mr. Blaine supported Mr. Lincoln. Upon these facts the Bulletin confidently asks:

"Now dear Advertiser, in the light of American history, which one acted for the country's best good, John L. Stevens or James G. Blaine? Blaine believed in political organization, in putting forward men who would command the loyal support of the masses. Stevens gave his support to men first and the party afterward. Answer us, thou halfway omnipotent Advertiser, tell the weak and feeble masses of Hawaii who was right."

Has this political conundrum any local significance? If so what is it? Is it the intent to suggest that some local Blaine is working with pious zeal for some local Lincoln as governor of this territory, and that he ought to, and will, get the best of some local Stevens who is maliciously working for a local Seward?

If the question involves no "local coloring," and merely involves a discussion of the duty of public men, we frankly concede that Mr. Blaine believed in "putting forward men who would command the loyal support of the masses." As he cordially hated Mr. Seward, he naturally believed in this or any other proposition that would defeat the "favorite son of the Empire State." More than this, Mr. Blaine had an abiding faith that James G. Blaine at all times "commanded the loyal support of the masses," and for forty years he commanded it himself by holding one office or another. He trusted himself more than he trusted other men, and naturally selected himself as the choice of the masses.

As he was defeated, however, for the highest office by the loyal masses of his own party, the principle he believed in did not always work satisfactorily, and he was accustomed to use rather vigorous language about many of the loyal masses.

If the incident of Mr. Blaine's support of Lincoln in the nominating convention of 1860 is to be regarded as an evidence of his wise selection of a candidate, and not an attempt to beat Seward, whom he hated, then it is only just to give Mrs. Lincoln full credit for the part she played in giving to the United States and the world one of the most extraordinary statesmen of the century.

Herndon, Mr. Lincoln's law partner for twenty years, remarks in his biography of Lincoln that if Lincoln's domestic life had been a pleasant one, he

would never have entered politics, as he was entirely domestic in his tastes. Mrs. Lincoln, it is well known, and it is so said by Herndon, made it so uncomfortably "hot" for Mr. Lincoln at home, that he engaged in politics as a diversion, and made it a wind break against domestic cyclones. If then, Mrs. Lincoln, by many cantankerous proceedings, forced Mr. Lincoln into public life, did she not "act for the country's best good" as effectively or even more effectively than Mr. Blaine?

But, are we getting any nearer to the real question, which is involved in the impressive incident cited by our contemporary? How can we make it useful in our own lives and conversation? Or is the incident only used as a blister, which will draw out the soreness and inflammation of our little body politic, caused by the inconsiderate act of that politician, McKinley, who dared to defy the "loyal masses" of this town, by retaining in office the Family Compact, to the great injury of law, order and prosperity.

ALGER AND THE "CROWD."

Attention was called, several weeks ago, to that curious book written by Le Bon, on the "crowd." Extracts were given, showing the ill-advised, erratic and in some ways insane acts of masses of men, who, on occasions, lose their individual judgments, and act like herds of cattle or sheep.

At the G. A. R. campfire held in Cincinnati on the 7th of this month, Governor Pingree, of Michigan, read an address, in which he denounced the management of the hospital corps, and condemned red tape in the army.

The Governor then began a new sentence: "If Secretary Alger..." Here he was interrupted by a shout from Alger's friends in the camp, who believed that the next words of the address would denounce the Secretary. The audience lost control of itself. It cheered Alger and hissed Pingree and refused to let him proceed. Pingree, thereupon, handed his speech to the chairman and left the platform in anger and disgust. After he had left order was restored. The chairman at once read from the manuscript the remainder of the sentence which the crowd had interrupted. This was the sentence: "If Secretary Alger had been given full power such things never would have happened."

The great audience felt at once that it had collectively made an ass of itself. It called for Pingree. It tried to make reparation. Every man in the audience looked at his neighbor or some stranger and was ready to put the blame upon every one, but not on himself. Pingree, boiling with indignation, refused to appear before the audience that had so grossly insulted him.

The incident is an excellent illustration of the errors that are committed by the democracy, in ruling itself. The power of the crowd is an enormous factor in politics. The politicians appreciate its subtle influence in a nominating convention. The place chosen for the convention largely determines the candidates. The crowd on the floor responds to the crowd in the galleries.

The moral of this incident in Cincinnati is instructive to the citizens of Honolulu: "Avoid getting into large crowds in town when politics is discussed, as you may suddenly holler the wrong way."

THE PASSING HOUR.

The Prince of Wales refused to permit the big surgeons to hold on to his leg any longer. There is in this incident a volume of suggestion to the American slantist.

The French papers and people propose to have a revision for Dreyfus even if the supply of "personages suitable for the war portfolio in the Cabinet is completely exhausted."

Veterans of public life or army service or prominent men with political ambition are wary of accepting place on President McKinley's commission to look into war "mismanagement." Gen. Schofield, who would have been an exceedingly valuable man, has just declined one of the places.

Congressman Frank G. Newlands, father of the Joint Resolution of Annexation, is mentioned in papers in the

States as a possibility for the Governorship of Hawaii. Later an analysis of his qualifications from the standpoint of the A. U. P. Central Committee will be in order.

It is now said that Queen Victoria is at the bottom of the Czar's disarmament proposal. The Czar's plan, by the way, would render myriads of his people jobless. He has an army of a million, a respectable navy and it is figured that he could for war purposes muster no less than 22,000,000 of men, not counting hordes of tartars that might finally be called upon as a reserve.

It appears that while bread making is not attempted at either Camp McKinley or Camp Otis, the issuance of baking powder from the Commissary Department continues right along, according to regulation. Perhaps it is expected that the staple will be used to raise the spirits of the men. The men bring it into town and offer it at half cost price to raise a little cash to buy some things that are in storage at the Commissary Department.

THE SPICE OF LIFE

May come from many a source. We all enjoy a good laugh and when one considers how easy it is to assume duties which tend to create ill health it is not remarkable to find so many who are suffering.

MALT

Close attention to one's duties, no matter the nature, sooner or later the labors will soon become a task in this climate. You feel tired, can't eat and relish your meal; imagine you are unfortunate and long for a change.

NUTRINE

Just think a moment and consider whether the cause of your ill feelings are not due to lack of tone to your stomach, thereby overtaxing your nerve force, which eventually wrecks the whole organism.

NEVER

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