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## The Battle In The House

MANY people have wondered why such a climax could come in the House of Representatives as was witnessed there last Saturday. The reason is that there is no other just such body as our House of Representatives in all the world; no other body governed by such rules; no other body where the speaker has such power.

The Senate is composed of two members from each state. Rhode Island has as many Senators as Texas, though were Rhode Island pulled up by the roots and placed on the broad back of Texas, it would not amount to "rising ground." By the fiction of a theory the Senate represents the states, where the smallest and poorest has equal voice with the greatest and most populous. Thus in the Senate Delaware counts for as much as New York. As Daniel Webster, in his most famous speech said: "This a Senate, a Senate of equals, of men of individual honor and personal character, and of absolute independence. We know no masters, we acknowledge no dictators. This is a hall for mutual consultation and discussion, not an arena for the exhibition of champions."

But the House is made up of a body of men that go there as the direct representatives of the people; they are elected directly by the people, while the Senate is one remove away from the people and is elected by state legislatures. But the people are divided into parties, and that ruling parties may have the power to enforce such legislation as it desires, extraordinary powers have to be given to the man who presides over the House, and at least a moral restriction is put upon members to, on all normal occasions, act with their fellow-partisans. In that way members often vote for measures which they do not entirely approve of, subjecting their judgment to the consensus of judgment of their party. But the Republicans in the present House were elected on a platform which promised the people a new and lower tariff than the Dingley tariff. When the present tariff was submitted to the House, a careful analysis of the different schedules made clear that, while many reductions had been made, on many of the articles which most nearly concern the consumers of the country, and articles which before were amply protected, pronounced increases had been put on. Some of the Republican members were not only bound by their platform, but by direct pledges to their own constituents, and, moreover, their outraged sense of justice caused them to refuse to support the measure. They were at once put down as insurgents. When they tried to be heard the speaker would not see them, and he, working with the majority of his party, finally drove the measure though and it became a law. But it left a world of heart-burnings and awakened bitter animations. In addition, the speaker displaced them on committees. So when the House re-convened in December last, this antagonism soon revealed itself. The majority of the Republicans in the House, ably backed by the speaker, instead of trying to do away with the antagonism, and seeking to win back the recalcitrant members, tried to crush them. This naturally aroused intensified antagonism, the friction increased daily, until it culminated last Saturday in an open battle, which was a daisy, and resulted in passing an order that new rules for the government of the House should be framed, and that the speaker

should have no part in the framing. Then a motion was made to oust (or accept the resignation of) the speaker. A part of the so-called insurgents, having been all the time earnest Republicans, seeing that if that motion prevailed, the logical sequence would be to elect a Democrat—a member of the minority party in the House—speaker, voted against the motion, and thus saved the speakership to Mr. Cannon. But he was too much enraged to appreciate this devotion to party principles on the part of those members, and taunted them with being defeated, which is an indication that he lacks the generosity and courage of a real hero and bodes more clashing in future. But the scrap somewhat cleared the atmosphere of the House, and we will all hope will lead to good results. In our judgment these are days when President Taft should be getting busy.

## Wonderful Egypt

THEODORE ROOSEVELT has never permitted his imagination to have much influence over his life. He has ever been striving for practical results, and his inspirations have generally been reduced to problems and subjected to such tests as the mathematician relies upon for a solution. But during the past week if his soul has not been stirred by some new emotions; if he has not seemed to hear the whispers that linger as the ages roll away, then there is nothing beyond this world, and the centuries as they pass hold no secrets in their grasp.

For he has been in that land where the people, thousands of years before traditions crystallized into history, emerged, first upon the earth, from barbarism into the first elements of civilization, and there, alone by themselves, progressed until within them the arts and architecture were born, then a religion grew into form; then, turning their eyes upward, out of the order of the heavenly bodies, the first lessons in mathematics were evolved, and finally the creation of armies and the first "setting of squadrons in the field" was made a reality. And this was all so long ago, who can comprehend the time?

For centuries they wore no clothing; for centuries their best residences were meager huts of clay; for ages they toiled on until finally kings and priests were born, and men rose up so sagacious and so splendid of achievement, that though there was no history to record their exploits, the traditions of them, which were handed down from generation to generation, finally took their places in history. They evolved a written language and began to leave their records upon their monuments and temples, and thus they grew and established dynasties, and built pyramids, obelisks, temples, learned navigation and sailed the seas, and it was all so long ago that the nation was worn out centuries before the coming of the Saviour, for since Cambyses, with his Persians, swept over that land 600 B. C., that nation has never had a king of its own people.

That when the nation was growing, it had all the graces of modern nations is clear enough. Is not the tomb still pointed out of their great Queen Nitocris, she who built the third pyramid; the magic of whose smile drove her lovers mad, so supernatural was her witchery, and whose naked spirit still haunts the pyramids which she built. Then that long array of kings and fighting men; the hieroglyphics which tell of their deeds still set the pulses of heroes bounding. Then the wrecks of what they left, Memphis,

Thebes, and a dozen more great cities—all this came out of barbarism, all grew upon a narrow strip of soil surrounded by deserts, all arose, culminated and went into decay in years so remote, that science itself can but guess at the date of its beginning.

And Mr. Roosevelt has been amid these scenes and these memories during the past week. More than once he must have rubbed his eyes and asked himself if he was not dreaming, and only been reassured as he saw the temples and pyramids around him and the wonderful river rolling below even as it was rolling when old Remesis was marshalling his armies on its banks and dreaming of the glory that was to be his for all time, never once dreaming that his mummy would be carried away to be a curiosity in a museum which, in his time, was not known to children of men. Surely the ex-President must have been impressed as never before. Surely he must have more than once said to himself: "It was here that tyranny had its birth and fulfilled all its desires, only to perish from the decay inherent in itself. There is nothing enduring after all but 'liberty and eternal justice.'"

## A Good Scrap

A SCRAP like that in the House of Representatives last Saturday has many compensations in the public mind. The country had about concluded that the hook worm had taken possession of Congress, or that the sleeping sickness had become epidemic in Washington. The country had a reason for this belief. It had a good many. It will do no harm to mention a few of them.

(1) The Panama canal is being hurried to completion, but were it ready for business today, we would have no ships to pass through it, save a few war ships, and they would have to take along some chartered foreign ships to supply them with coal, and Congress does not seem to be doing anything to restore to the country its lost merchant marine.

(2) By our legislation of 1873 and 1893 we have closed quite half the ports and peoples of the world against our exports, and by the same legislation we made it possible for the Orient to supply us with iron, steel rails, cotton and woolen cloths and a multitude of other articles, at one-tenth what our own artisans can supply those things for, and when these facts have been laid before Congress, the sleeping sickness has seemed to suddenly seize the whole body of both houses, and the only response which the President has seemed able to make has been to smile.

(3) We heard two years or more ago, that a committee was engaged in drafting a currency system for the country, and that the chairman of that committee, Senator Aldrich, had expressed the wish that he might be able to present a system of finance for the country that would be so nearly perfect that it would act like moving the previous question and shut off all further debate. There are some people who have been ungenerous enough to express the belief that the Senator has both the hook worm and the sleeping sickness.

(4) Every little while some gentleman throws off his drowsiness long enough to rise and express the conviction that the government ought to conserve our natural resources, and no other gentleman has had the strength to express the opinion that every such gentleman is the lineal descend-